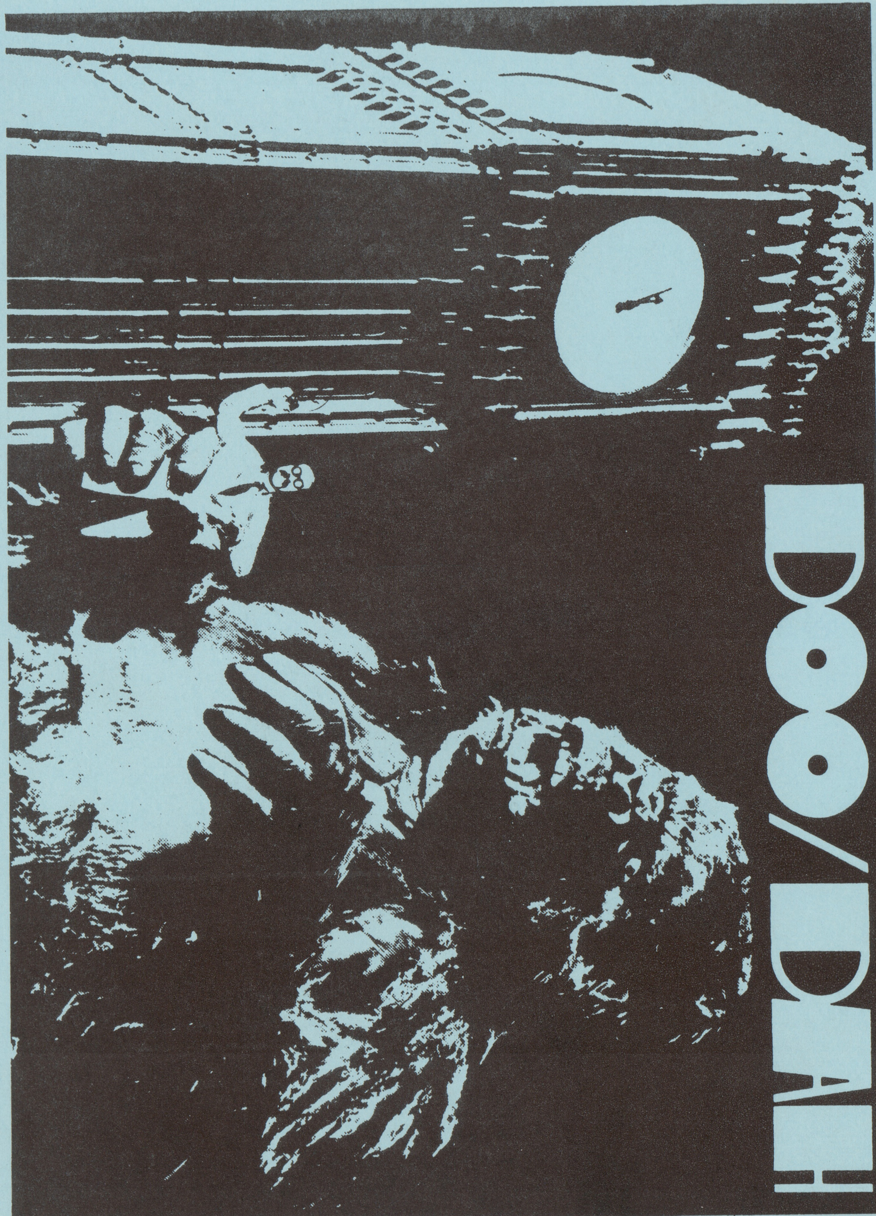

The Bonzo Dog Band Fan Club

DOO/DAH

$7 for one year subscription includes buttons, membership card, certificate, trading cards & 4 issues of the zaniest fanzine in existance. Send check or moneyorder to Doo Dah c/o Dean Cole. 336 Hoover Ave Bloomfield, NJ 07003. Check or money order payable to Dean Cole.

HEAVY MENTAL

"Economic Growth" is Here!

Distributed by Dutch East, Systematic and Prestige Int.

From the same band that gave away 5239 Free demo tapes, HEAVY MENTAL presents their latest 4 cut EP, "ECONOMIC GROWTH" Available at record outlets and us for $1.75 Cash, check or moneyorder. we pay your postage

PERSISTANT PRODUCTIONS LIMITED
PO BOX 777, EVANSTON IL, 60204

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Staph

Founderer Emeritus
St. Michael D. Miller, retd.

Spiritual Advisor
St. Stephen Xavier of Trever

Visual Arts Critic
Anni Ackner

Official Curmudgeon
Garry De Young

Poetry Critic
Alison Meyers

Official Conspirator
Kerry W. Thornley, KSC

Aural Arts Critic
Shane Williams

Contributing Artists
Al
Andy Amster
Ace Backwords
John Crawford
John E.
Kathy LeBleu
Matt Love
J.P. Morgan
Lawrence Oberc
Leigh Perry
Joe Schwind
John Sevcik
Zen Sutherland
Lang Thompson
Phil Tortorici
Denver Tucson
Gus Varner
Barb Warr

Moral Support & Production Assistance
Carolyn MacDonald

Official Supernumerary
Mike Gunderloy

Cleaning By
The Friendly Janitors, Inc.

Ontological Advice Supplied by
Committee for the Dissemination of Multiple Realities
The King of Mice Foundation for Inquiry

The Aeditor's Office Decor by
Mr. Fred of Brooklyn

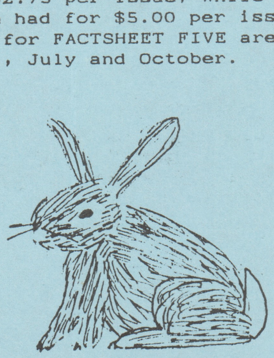
Dangerous Drugs Courtesy of
Vitamin A Imports, Inc.

Approved by
Eighteenth Century Communications, Ltd.

FACTSHEET FIVE is published four times a year, appearing in the mails during the first week of February, May, August and November. Subscriptions are available at $2.00 (cash, check, MO or mint US postage stamps) per issue, up to 4 issues in advance. These copies are sent Bulk Mail within the US, First Class to Canada and Mexico, and Surface Mail overseas.

First class subscriptions within the US are available at $2.75 per issue, while Overseas Airmail may be had for $5.00 per issue.

Deadlines for FACTSHEET FIVE are the 20th of January, April, July and October.



FACTSHEET FIVE advertising space is available as follows:

	Unreduced	To be reduced
Full Page	7 1/2" x 10 1/2"	11 1/4" x 16"
Half Page	7 1/2" x 5 1/4"	11 1/4" x 8"
Half Page	3 3/4" x 10 1/2"	5 1/2" x 16"
Quarter Page	3 3/4" x 5 1/4"	5 1/2" x 8"
Eighth Page	3 3/4" x 2 1/2"	5 1/2" x 4"
Business Card	2 1/4" x 2"	3 1/2" x 3"

Copy for FACTSHEET FIVE is reduced to 66% of its original linear dimensions. The first column shows width by height for ads to be run exactly as submitted, without reduction. The second column shows width by height for ads to be reduced along with the rest of the publication. Current advertising rates are:

Full Page	$65.00
Half Page	$35.00
Quarter Page	$20.00
Eighth Page	$12.50
Business Card	$ 7.50

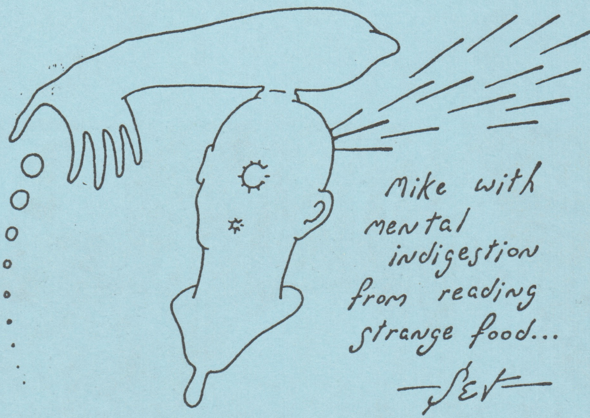
A glossary of unusual terms used in FF is available for an SASE.

A WORD ABOUT THE NEW FORMAT:

Most readers will notice that this FACTSHEET FIVE is larger than previous issues. This change was brought about by a switch in printers, which has also enabled me to raise the circulation while holding the price steady.

Since I'm moving directly after this issue comes out, I'll be switching printers again. The possibility remains that I will go back to the old format. Or I might stay with this format, or do something altogether different.

In any case, it would probably be a good idea for prospective advertisers to phone me some time around mid-September to check on copy sizes and rates.



FACTSHEET FIVE

Welcome to another issue of the zine of crosscurrents and cross-pollination. Available by mail or in person from Mike Gunderloy, address given in the NEWS section. This is Pretzel Press publication #694, and is intended for direct Bulk Mailing to subscribers and good people across the country, around the world, and right into your face. Press run: 1200 copies. 19th issue.

*****

This is where I explain the mailing code, on the far right of the first line of the address label .

A number indicates the last issue that you'll be getting. So if the number is "19", you need to Do Something if you want to keep getting FF. If the number is "19" and you don't even know why you got this, you probably have a Secret Admirer or something. Wanna subscribe?

"+" indicates that you've got nothing to worry about, because you're on the staph, you won a contest, you bought a lifetime sub, or you just got lucky.

"A" means that you're getting this because of your artwork; either you sent me some or I want you to send me some, or both.

"B" means I'm trading for a book you sent.

"D" means that you're a distributor and so you get one copy for yourself as a freebie. I'm looking for new distributors, people who think they can sell ten copies or so and want to split the proceeds. The number after the colon is how many copies I think I'm sending you.

"M" means you sent me music to review, or that you promised to send me music in the future. I usually allow 1 issue for a single, 2 for a tape, or 3 for an LP, but I screw up a lot, so let me know if you're owed more. (Or less).

"P" means you're a prisoner. FACTSHEET FIVE is always free to prisoners, but you need to keep in touch to keep getting it, otherwise I'll assume the copies aren't getting through to you. Wardens, you gotta pay like anyone else. Prisoners in mental institutions are extended the same privileges as those in allegedly-saner criminal institutions.

"T" means we're trading zines, all-for-all -- that means that I expect to receive one copy of every issue you publish, however often they come out. If you're infrequent, I expect at least a note every six months to keep you on the mailing list. "T?" means that I'd like you to consider trading with me.

Any of the above followed by a number (like "M/21") indicate the issue you'll have to renegotiate to keep getting FF.

And remember, FF is sent BULK MAIL. Not only does this make it slow (though, I hope, not TOO slow), but it means undeliverable copies go to that Big Post Office In The Sky. So PLEASE get your COAs to me promptly to avoid missing issues.

*****

Subscription rates are on the Staph page, but here they are again: $2.00 (cash, check, money order or US stamps) per issue for a regular sub. I used to give a discount for payment in stamps but no longer -- the bookkeeping was too much. Those in the US can subscribe for $2.75 an issue and get FF delivered First Class instead of Bulk Mail. Those in Europe can get Airmail delivery for $5 per issue. Any of these rates are good for up to 4 issues in advance, protecting you from price rises for a full year. Send money for more than 4 issues and I'll take it as a welcome donation. (Be sure to specify if you're sending money for a 1st class subscription!)

If anyone wants to buy a lifetime subscription (lifetime of the magazine, that is), I'll sell you one for $50. Or make me a reasonable offer of trade or barter.

Thanks to Donna Young, S.R. Markie and J.C. Brainbeau for their generous donations towards publishing this issue.

IMPORTANT NOTE: I do NOT accept used postage stamps in payment!

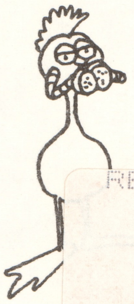
If you want FF sent to a friend, just send me their address and $2. I'll mark it as a gift from you unless you specify otherwise.

In lieu of sending stamps, money, fanzines, artwork, books, or music you can get FF by sending me something to review that I haven't seen before, or by bartering dangerous drugs, canned goods, or negotiable securities.

Thanks to Bag of Water, Dave Szurek, Remy Chevalier, Mykel Board, Herb Ashe, Bob Black, Matt Love, Geoff Hall, Sean Haugh, Martin Morse Wooster, Fred Mills, Helen Katz, Tom Garcia, Lewis Moseley, Jim Downard, John Leonard, Jim Reid-Cunningham and Jim Hofmann forsending zines for me to review in this issue.

What won't work is sending too little money, non-credible threats, or just begging. Sorry, them's the breaks.

See you all again in November. Good luck back in school or wherever. AND DON'T FORGET THAT MY ADDRESS IS CHANGING ON AUGUST 15th!!!



NEWS

REAL New address:
Mike Gunderloy
6 Arizona Ave.
Rensselaer, NY 12144
-->note city & zip code!!<--

I am moving to New York in order to work on a MS and make lots of money in the future. This means that my address is changing. So, BEFORE August 15th my address remains: Mike Gunderloy, 41 Lawrence St. Medford, MA 02155; phone (617)-391-3496. [No calls after 10PM, and I don't make toll calls to people I don't know].

AFTER AUGUST 15th, FF and I will have a NEW ADDRESS:

Mike Gunderloy
6 Arizona Ave.
East Greenbush, NY 12061

I don't know the new phone yet but I'll be in the book. Please update your mailing lists accordingly. Zines who review FF, I'd really appreciate it if you publicized this new address. And of course, please don't publish any old FF ads if you can avoid it.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

*Jake Berry (OUTRE/MURDERER'S WORK/PANDEMONIUM SPIRIT) has relocated to 2251 Helton Dr. #N7, Florence, AL 35630.

*CATALYST COMICS emanates from 202 S. Lincoln #6, Urbana, IL 61801-3050.

*COMET HALLEY PRESS is at 363 Oliver Ave., San Diego, CA 92109-5119.

*ELITIST ENNUI can be reached at 2010 Maple, Evanston, IL 60201.

*FAN'TOONS comes from 3045 Park Ln. #1039, Dallas, TX 76220-6516.

*FORCED EXPOSURE is now at PO Box 1611, Waltham, MA 02254.

*HI-TECH TERROR has a new editor, Tim Ferrante, who can be reached at PO Box 41, Keyport, NJ 07735.

*IRON MOUNTAIN is now at PO Box 227, Florence, CO 81226.

*MUMBLES has moved to PO Box 8312, Wichita, KS 67208.

*OPTION has relocated to 2345 Westwood Blvd. #2, Los Angeles, CA 90064.

*THIRD RAIL now comes from PO Box 472084, Tulsa, OK 74147.

*UNDULANT FEVER now dreams at 5316 W. Port Au Prince, Glendale, AZ 85306.

*VIDEO DRIVE-IN drove to 5965 Little Brook Way, Columbus, OH 43232-1672.

*Cartoonist Steve Willis is now at PO Box 309, McCleary, WA 98557.

*THE WIRKSHOP works from PO Box 3441, Sparks, NV 89432.

LOST ADDRESSES:

Anyone got a current address for these?
*CHEMICAL GIRL
*PIGEON DROPPINGS
*WORTHLESS

OTHER NEWS:

*NEW PAGES (4426 S. Belsay Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439) offers a number of mailing lists that may be of interest to ziners, including lists of college and general libraries and bookstores. Prices start at $25.

*The Daniel DeLeon Election Committee (PO Box 3764, Grand Rapids, MI 49501) is conducting a sort of straw poll to judge people's feelings about socialism. Sample copies of their "ballot" are 25 cents.

*Central America Newspak (PO Box 2327, Austin, TX 78768) publishes a digest of articles from major US and Mexican newspapers. A six month subscription is $20.

*Well-known bon vivant LOVE 22 is running for President again in 1988. You can contact his campaign headquarters at PO Box 4022, Key West, FL 33040 to find out more. You can get 5 $22 bills from him for a buck. Every once in a while, some store takes one of these as legal tender, so you might make a nice profit if you don't get busted. (And along the same lines, don't forget the TWE dollar bills available from The Orwellian Times).

*(R)EVOLUTION (PO Box 306, Onondaga Station, Syracuse, NY 13215) writes to say that they are still in business and that their second issue will be out real soon now, honest. If you sent them money, have faith

*THE NETWORK (from Small Computer Systems, Inc., 812 Ellington Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46234) is "a cross-vocational monthly publication. The Network links people who're using creative blends of social, economic and spirit methods in a wide variety of occupations." They run a computer database and a magazine for those interested in bringing the future about, selling services, hunting a job, or looking for information.

*The Industrial Cooperative Association (58 Day St. #200, Somerville, MA 02144) is a group that specializes in setting up worker-owned companies. It has a paid staff, professional expertise, and $2 million available in a revolving loan fund. Now, if any of you have a company to take co-op, they're the ones to call.

*The Mail Order Business Board (1801 S. Cardinal Lane, New Berlin, WI 53151) is available to help settle complaints against mail-order sellers. In addition, those selling through the mail may become members of the board by agreeing to adhere to its ethical guidelines and paying an annual fee.

*HERETIC'S JOURNAL BULLETIN has gone out of business, due to rising costs (a familiar story). Ron Heresy is still going to be putting out the HJ FORUM -- you can get in touch with him at PO Box 12347, Seattle, WA 98111 to find out more about this reader-written mag dealing with a new social and spiritual synthesis.

*With the success of the Falwell Game (the one where zillions of people called up Jerry and drove his toll-free number out of business), the disorganized left in this country has found a new weapon -- the telephone. A couple of 800 numbers have been circulating for the same treatment that Jerry got: call and hang up to cost them money, or call and bullshit for a while to run up their costs and tie up the lines even more. Of the ones I've seen, I'll pass on three without comment:

THE 700 CLUB GAME: You can get hold of evangelist and alleged Presidential contender Pat Robertson may be reached at 800-446-0700. Tell 'em that "Jerry sent me".

THE WAR GAME: Yes, the US Army has a toll-free telemarketing line that can give you the location of the nearest recruiter. Call 800- USA-ARMY (that's 800-872-2769).

THE SCHOOL GAME: Conservative watchdog group Accuracy In Academia, who of course are doing good work in identifying commie-pinko-faggot professors, may be reached at 800-334-9141 to report any suspicious courses you have had.

I don't know how long it will take to bankrupt the US Army, but if we all work together, sooner or later 800 numbers will be a thing of the past.

*Gary "Pig" Gold (Pig Productions, 70 Cotton Dr., Mississauga, Ont. L5G 1Z9 CANADA) has a syndicated music column available for free to alternative music zines. Contact him directly for details and sample columns.

*THE BEWILDERBEAST has ceased publication. Dennis Fischer is going on to other projects and you may well see some of them reviewed here.

*PRIVATE SPACE is a new journal devoted to non-governmental attempts at spaceflight. I've only seen a prospectus, but copies of the first issue are available for $2 from PO Box 3025, Rock Hill, SC 29731.

*CASTLE RISING (PO Box 1490, Idaho Springs, CO 80452) is a neopagan group offering a newsletter, a supplies catalog, a calendar and various tapes. Send an SASE for more information.

*NASTY SAVAGE (PO box 2012, Brandon, FL 33511), publishers of WAGE OF MAYHEM heavy metal pfanzine ($2) report that #3 will be out soon and that their mailing list was destroyed in a fire. Write 'em if they owe you an issue or two.

*Katlady (PO Box 7742, Salt Lake City, UT 84107) has a series of SubGenius postcards available, suitable for framing, or better yet sending to unsuspecting friends and bureaucrats through the mails. There are at least 24 designs available on brightly-colored card stock for 20¢ each.

*The Alliance For Cultural Democracy announces its 10th Anniversary Conference, to be called "Imaginaction". ACD is an organization for community and activist artists, and the conference is going to be in Boston, November 7-10, 1986. For more information contact Vivienne Simon, 42 Jamaica Rd., Brookline, MA 02146.

*JET LAG MAGAZINE (c/o Cathy Renner, 2430 S. 39th St., Apt. C, St. Louis, MO 63110) is looking for music videos for a cable TV program they're producing. 1/2" or 3/4" tapes accepted.

FACTSHEET FIVE PROJECTS:

*I am finally prepared to offer the FACTSHEET FIVE mailing list on self-adhesive labels. At the moment this is only the full list, but in the near future I will be able to sort out, for example, only zines or only bands, so if that's what you want write for a price. In fact, if you want the full list, write or give me a call about that too.

*If anyone doesn't want their name given out on mailing labels, please let me know.

*I am considering offering a special edition of FACTSHEET FIVE with full-size rather than reduced print. If there is anyone interested in this, please get in touch with me so I can work out the details.

*The Gemstone File is a conspiratorial mishmash of theories that have been circulating in samisdat form around the US. I have copies of three different versions (something over 50 pages total) available for $5 total to those interested in this sort of thing -- and I'm looking for more versions if you have any.

*I also have available a small zine called @narchonotes. The first issue recounts my own experiences at the Haymarket '86 anarchist gathering in Chicago, the second has accounts from a couple of other co-conspirators, and future issues may help in the planning of another anarchist party. Send me a buck and I'll send you whatever copies I have handy.

Back issues of FACTSHEET FIVE are available as follows:

#1, 2, 3, 4, 17.1	$1 each
#6, 9, 12, 14	$2 each
#5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18	$3 each
Complete set	$32

The first four issues are ditto-printed and much smaller than those to follow. The remaining issues are either the original printing ($2 issues) or xerox copies ($3 issue), which look the same but cost me substantially more to make. All of the issues from #4 through #18 were in digest format, 8 1/2 by 5 1/2 inches.

*****

Little magazines may be regarded as depth charges of enlightenment then again maybe not.
--Don Webb

Publisher's Choice

2600 Vol. 3 #6 ($2 from 2600 Enterprises, PO Box 752, Middle Island, NY 11953-0752): This is one of those hacker's journals you occasionally hear about, though it steers clear of advocating that anyone actually break the law. Useful facts about operating systems, lists of interesting phone numbers, condensation of the National Center for Computer Crime Data report on hacking, and a lot of interesting letters and news bits. They also have a selection of back issues for sale.

*****

APA-EROS #4 (SASE & state over 18 for sample from Sylvia c/o Correspan, PO Box 759, Veneta, OR 97487): It's been coon's years since I've seen a copy of APA-69, but that doesn't matter because this up-and-coming forum for sexual discussion is more vibrant than I can ever remember the other being. Produced from photo-ready copy provided by the readers, A-E is devoted to all aspects of sexuality, and has carried stuff on turn-ons and turn-offs; erotica, discussions of alternate lifestyles (mostly sexual ones), newspaper clippings on various related topics, and just plain chit-chat. Submissions vary widely, but I'm struck by the honest tone and deep emotions of most of the writers. A-E could really take off over the next few years if it continues to be as interesting as the reader/writers have made it so far.

*****

BEATNIKS FROM SPACE #7 ($3 or $5 for last 2 issues from Neither/Nor, Po Box 8043, Ann Arbor, MI 48107): Featuring a nifty raised-ink cover with the soon-to-be-famous JP Morgan drawing "VORK the Mighty after he just got up", this issue of BFS is another brick in the pile of dangerous literature that emanates from Ann Arbor. Editor Dennis McBee is interested in neither the mainstream or the usual "alternative" stuff that fills literary mags. Instead, he publishes stories, poetry and art that could find a home nowhere else. BFS is an attack, disguised but potent, on the very fabric of our society, and every mutant ought to read a copy and see whether I'm telling the truth about it or not. Joe Fasbinder's "Makedue Wine" and Steve McCue's "Time and Charges" are the highlight fictions of this issue.

*****

BRAVEAR #4 ($2 from PO Box 3877, Berkeley, CA 94703): OK, I admit it, I'm influenced by the look of this pfanzine -- one of the best desktop publishing efforts to come along so far, although the slick paper may be overkill. But the 40 pages also contain some of the best contents in any zine, concentrating on music but occasionally wandering off to discuss the rise of fascism in America or the lost days when God was a woman. Feature stories (for the most part not interviews but articles) on half a dozen groups including Butthole Surfers, Salem 66, the Muskrats and more. Also has the expected reviews and some unexpected articles, like the one on the FERRET comics put out by Dave Roth.

*****

COLTSFOOT Vol. VII #3 ($1.50 from James Troy, Route 1, Box 313A, Shipman, VA 22971): COLTSFOOT is subtitled "in appreciation of wild plants" and is full of interesting and useful information, as well as the occasional amusing story (like this issue's coverage of Steve Brill, who was arrested for eating wild plants in Central Park). I never knew before this issue that dandelion flowers, as well as the leaves, were edible; nor that even the picked-on kudzu vine has useful and even edible parts. There's apparently a whole network of folks around the country eating wild greens; James gets articles from a bunch of them and passes them on. Too bad he doesn't have the budget for color photos, but the line drawings he uses instead are clear and informative.

*****

FALSE POSITIVE #5 ($3 from Donna Kossy, PO Box 432, Boston, MA 02258): FP is mostly unclassifiable, but it's sort of like having a dozen posterists in a book, all taping stuff over the top of one another's compositions. This is the Food & Drug issue (the Sex and/or Love issue should be out even as you read this), and it contains some interesting stuff, notably Dadata discoursing on and a SubGenial debate on the necessity of doing too many drugs. Two things about every issue of FP make it stand out from the pack: the color-xerox cover collages, and the "Kooks" pages at the end, where America's most low-budget conspiracy theorists hang out when they're not plastering telephone poles with their efforts or haranguing people on street corners.

*****

FRIENDS OF THE TREES 1986 YEARBOOK ($4 from PO Box 1466, Chelan, WA 98816): A very impressive publication that appears to depend largely on the energy of Michael Pilarski, who is doing his best to re-green the world. "Think Globally! Plant Trees Locally!" is emblazoned on the cover, and inside there are plenty of resources to help you do just that. These 80 pages are jam-packed with contact addresses, seed exchange listings, and useful articles. I particularly enjoyed the thoughts on permaculture and Michael's recollections of planting trees for the Forest Service (hoedading) -- he's up to 35,000 and still going. For anyone interested in actively helping the environment, particularly those in the Pacific northwest.

*****

INTERNATIONAL GRAFFITI TIMES #7 ($2 from SchMidLap, PO Box 299, Prince St. Stn., New York, NY 10012): IGT knows what field it is in, knows what it is doing there, and does it amazingly well. Each issue is a slick paper fold-out sheet, containing 2-color repros of graffiti from New York and around the world, bits and pieces of news coverage, and editorials from the artists themselves. In this issue Bama discusses the early days of graffiti in New York, and more lovely pix of subway trains grace the pages. IGT also has available a host of other products, including a $16.95 book of subway art, customized T-shirts, and color photos and slides of the best of subway art.

*****

LEVEL 9 ($5 from Dennis Baldwin, PO Box 50164, Indianapolis, IN 46256): What to say about LEVEL? Well, it's a Mail-Art Network, or as they put it "an open forum for the exchange of toys, ideas, images, and hardware", and they're strange and wonderful indeed. Issue 9 came filling its 6x9 envelope to bursting with bits and pieces of art, both found and created, from dozens of lunatics. There are hand-colored xeroxes, bits of leaves and screening, postcards, photos, a check for a check, rubber stamp madness, jigsaw puzzle pieces, part of a dictionary...an indescribable array of items to amuse and confuse you. LEVEL is open to submissions, 105 copies of damned near anything. Write for details about LEVEL 10, to come out 12/31/86.

*****

LIGHTWORKS #17 ($5 ppd. from PO Box 1202, Birmingham, MI 48012): That seems a bit pricey but this zine "illuminating new & experimental art" is worth it, being 56 pages of photo-laced slick paper with occasional rubber-stampings and other hand-done touches. LW covers the "underground art scene" with enthusiasm, cramming reports of dozens of artists into these pages. The focal point of this issue is a series of articles on "sky art", using the sky as a place to stage a performance or paint, rather than as the subject for some captured piece of gallery art. Also contains a section of reviews with lots of contacts you won't find out about here.

*****

LOOKOUT #18 ($10/yr from PO Box 1000, Laytonville, CA 95454): I love LOOKOUT and I don't know quite what to say about it. It's clearly a political zine, yet editor Lawrence Livermore doesn't adhere to any party line, other than perhaps "treat people like people". It's a music zine, even though he thinks punk is dead and gone and nothing has stepped forward to take its place. And it's a very funny, satirical zine (this issue features a plan to put landfill over the top of downtown San Francisco) while treating a lot of very unfunny problems. Who knows, in ten years Lawrence may be surrounded by disciples hanging on his every word, but it's not likely in this, the first zine to warn you of the religious fervor that's going to surround the coming of the Millenium.

*****

THE MONTHLY INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE TIMES JOURNAL POST GAZETTE NEWS CHRONICLE BULLETIN #42 (50 cents or 2 stamps per issue (no checks) from T.S. Child, 2510 Bancroft Way #207, Berkeley, CA 94704): After

more than 3 years, TM...B maintains high standards of confusion and hilarity in its 8 half-sized pages. Loosely organized around the idea that humor can be something to drive you insane, every issue is different, but some are definitely more different than others. This time there are some artistic ravings from the pen of Denver Tucson, cancelled checks showing where the money from this project goes, and a poem where every word ends in the letter "o", as well as a disgustingly self-referential short story. For two stamps, you can't get this kind of amusement anywhere else.

*****

PC NEWSLETTER 11 ($5/6 issues from 1725 E. 115th St., Cleveland, OH 44106): PC is a project run by Pennie Stasik and Mark Edwards (with a little help from their friends) that helps network people involved in independent music. I think PC works so well because Mark and Pennie really believe in both little music and indie record companies, and they're not afraid to work hard for what they believe in. They started out by distributing indie records to radio stations (and they still do that -- you can get your tune out to 23 stations with their service). Now they also review music (only the stuff they distribute) and fanzines, and promote dialogue on topics like home taping, ASCAP/BMI, and computers for fanzines. This issue contains the result of their survey on home-taping attitudes and Mark and Pennie's thoughts on "Troubleshooting Little Radio."

*****

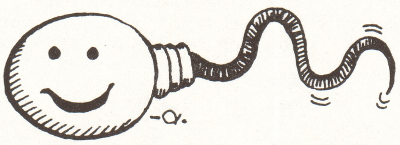
POPULAR REALITY #13 $2/6 issues from PO Box 3402, Ann Arbor, MI 48106): Yeah, I like PR, no matter how politically incorrect this may be considered in some circles. PR is a bimonthly tabloid featuring mainly reprints from a couple different segments of the small press. First off there are the anarchists and other anti-political loonies who do things like hand out Pat Robertson's phone number and allege that Ron Reagan is a Nazi tool. Then there are the wackos like Al Ackerman and Snow White Jung, who write bizarre inter-referential fiction and expect the rest of us to lap it up. Finally, there is the letter column, originals rather than reprints, which has recently featured a lot of blather over the Haymarket party, the ShiMo underground, and other such topics. This issue also features some reportage on what went down at Haymarket '86.

*****

SIDNEY SUPPEY'S QUARTERLY AND CONFUSED PET MONTHLY Vol. 5 #2 ($1 from Candi Strecker, 590 Lisbon, San Francisco, CA 94112): Candi has discovered -- thanks to a Jim Ryan cartoon -- a new term for that subculture which FACTSHEET FIVE panders to: "Lowlife Scum". Being a Scumologist herself from way back, Candi covers the dark side of unpopular culture at great and loving length in each issue of SSQ. This one has bits on Martin Denny and Blowfly music; a rundown on 3 Stooges books; miscellaneous Japanology, reports on TV's funniest evangelists, the wonderful world of catalogs and much more. Despite the name, SSQ only comes out about once a year, but it's well worth waiting for.

*****

SPORADIC DROOLINGS #5 ($1.50 from Dave Burokas, PO Box 1092, Kearny, NJ 07032): A mammoth collection of interviews and reviews -- something like 70 pages of reduced type. Unlike most pfanzine editors, Dave is concerned with more than just the bands, so there are interviews with other editors, record label people, and scene fixtures here as well. This issue, for example, SD talks to Donny the Punk, Jack Rabid, Gerard Cosloy, and Laura Croteau (of Rabid Cat records), along with the bands. FF staffer Shane Williams is now Asst. Editor of SD, and he conducts a number of interviews by mail, writes a couple of columns, and otherwise contributes an awful lot. Groups in this issue include (not an exhaustive list!) 76% Uncertain, Honeymoon Killers, Pntiac Brothers, and Celibate Rifles. The vinyl and show reviews are here too, but they don't dominate as is the case in many other pfanzines. A vital publication.

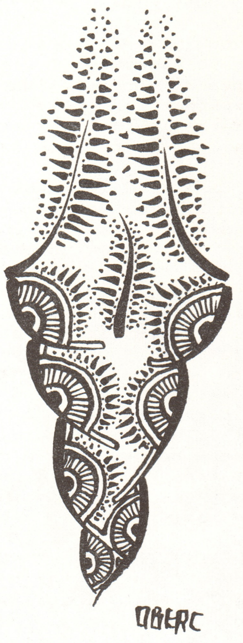


CORRECTION: Due to a reporter's error in the May 14 *News* on the International Variety Show, it was incorrectly reported that the show ended with Chinese traditional music. In fact, the show ended with a Syrian troupe dance. In addition, it was reported that Ned Olmsted was the president of the International Student Office. Mr. Olmsted is a coordinator in that office.

It was further reported that the Cedars of Lebanon Folkloric Troupe were from Worcester. They are from Boston. They story also reported that the troupe was comprised of four men and four women. It has five men and five women in its entourage.

The story also states that Brahim Maalouf, the leader of the Cedars of Lebanon troupe twirled a white rope to signal the others to follow him. Mr. Maalouf was in Canada at the time and the rope was in fact a silk ribbon used by all members of the troupe and did not signal anyone to do anything.

The story states that the Cedars troupe were from different areas. They are all from Boston, have been together for six years and perform every month.



GETTING ZINES

Just a few hints to consider when you're writing away for fanzines:

* If I list a name in the address for a zine, you ought to make checks or money orders out to that name rather than the zine name. If a zine has odd payment requirements, I try to note this in the address section of hte listing.

* On a related topic, when I put a question mark after the price it means that I'm guessing because the zine editors didn't list a price.

* On zines with a price under $1, it really helps to include a few stamps for postage.

* Canadians generally don't mind receiving U.S. funds, but for other countries you should think about alternative payment. Foreign currency is available at larger banks, and IRCs at your post office. Foreign MOs are also available from the post office, but can take forever to get.

* I'd appreciate it if you'd mention FACTSHEET FIVE when ordering zines you saw reviewed here. It helps us all in the long run, as the more credibility I build up the more fine zines I'll be able to bring to your attention.

* If you have any problems with a zine please let me know. I'll be happy to contact publishers in cases of non-receipt. 99% of the time it's just a case of things being lost in the mail.

* If you have time, any zine publisher enjoys hearing comments on the zine he has sent you. This is especially true if you didn't like it; we all like to imporve. Even a simple note of thanks can make a publisher's day, though.

ZINES

THE 39 SCREAMS #3 ($1.70 from Thunder Baas Press, PO Box 1614, Baltimore, MD 21203): This is apparently an attempt to return to the good old days of comics publishing, before the "voluntary censorship" of the Comics Code. This b&w book contains three short horror stories. Unfortunately, the drawing is better than the plotting, and only the first, a bit about a woman with rather unique recurring problems, works at all for me. I'm afraid horror is more than just drawings of death & eldritch things.

*****

AAMPLITUDE Vol. 1 #2 ($10/yr from Asian American Arts & Media, 1851 Columbia Rd. NW #501, Washington, DC 20009): Just as one might expect, this one is devoted to the various Asian Americans active in the arts and their current projects. The lead story in this issue is about the film "Dance of Tears", concerning the Khmer Classical Dance , Troupe, a group of expatriate Cambodians. There are also thoughts on current Asian-American culture and retrospectives of some important artists of the past.

*****

ACCESS TO ENERGY Vol. 13 #6 ($1.50 from Dr. Petr Beckmann, PO Box 2298, Boulder, CO 80306): "A Pro-Science, Pro-Technology, Pro-Free Enterprise Monthly Newsletter". He could have added "Pro-Nuclear Power" to that list, but what would be the point; the Luddite crowd will hate him already. ATE is an attempt to turn the rational thought of science on some of the great mythical social problems of the day, including the "Population Explosion" and the various idiocies surrounding the nuclear power debate. A refreshing voice.

*****

THE A*C*E Vol. 5 #1 ($1.50 from PO Box 46199, Baton ROuge, LA 70895): The monthly publication of the Association of Clandestine radio Enthusiasts. This journal tries to keep up with pirate, clandestine and spy radio operations. Written almost entirely by A*C*E members who monitor the airwaves, reports here cover everything from FM stations outside New York to anti-Castro guerillas in the Caribbean. The content gets technical at times, but is generally possible to follow -- makes me want to buy new tubes for my SW receiver. Also has articles on FCC enforcement and legal broadcasting equipment.

*****

ACTION LINKAGE QUARTERLY #3 ($30/yr from PO Box 2240, Wickenburg, AZ 85358): Action Linkage is a group founded by Robert Theobald to get people together to change the world. The $30 fee is the annual membership in the organization, and includes participation in other areas as well as ALQ. This is the overall reporting of the efforts of AL; things that members are doing are reported, as well as progress on more global organizational activities such as the book they are writing. AL also runs a number of apas, although they call them "many to manys", on a variety of New Age type topics, but you have to be an AL member to get involved.

*****

ACTION TIME #1 (75¢ from Eric, 15854 Montview Dr., Dumfries, VA 22026): Not bad for a first time out pfanzine. Though the printing occasionally sucks everything is readable: Marginal Man interview, record reviews, live show reports, fanzine reviews. The layout is the manic cut-up stuff one gets to expect from low-budget pfanzines. There's also some skate stuff, a couple pages of anti authoritarian news, and a comic or two here. Needs to develop some focus but has plenty of energy.

*****

ADARA #1 ($3 (?) from Liz Shaw, 305 Summerwood Dr., Clarkston, GA 30021): The first in what is intended to be a series of collections of Dr. Who fan fiction -- that is, short stories written by fans of the TV stories. Now, I don't watch the show myself, so I must admit to being quite baffled by most of these, as I'm not acquainted with the characters or recurring plot devices. Still, the writing seems competent, and there is plenty of it here -- nearly 100 pages full. If the Doctor Who universe appeals to you, you ought to consider getting hold of this, or perhaps even writing for it.

*****

ADEQUATE SCIENCE FICTION (SASE (?) from Kelly, 1 Simons Ln., Durham, NH 03824): A two-page sfanzine that seems to be modeled after CHEAP TRUTH, except that the layout is via desktop publishing instead of graphic designer. Short, snide reviews of current SF and an interview with the late great Mao about current SF. Cute but undistinguished.

*****

A.I.N. June 1986 ($5/6 issues CASH/Postal MO from 478 Rideau St., Box 121, Ottawa, ONT K1N 5Z4, CANADA): The publication of the Alternative Intercommunication Network. This is basically a youth penpals organization growing out of the punk rock movement. There are something over 100 listings in this issue, with a good split between male and female and a wide variety of musical and other interests. Mostly in the US or Canada, mostly age 20 and under, though there are exceptions to both of these. Send a couple of IRCs for a listing questionnaire or just subscribe.

*****

ALARUMS & EXCURSIONS #131 ($2.19 from Lee Gold, 3965 Alla Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90066): This is the major apa for FRP enthusiasts. Is that perfectly clear? Each issue is about 140 pages from 30 or more contributors, discussing their experiences in role-playing, current games their involved in, proposed new games or new rules, and so on. There's also a fair amount of debate about how history "really" worked (which armor was more effective and so on) but it's generally conducted at a friendly level.

*****

ALERT! March 1986 ($10/yr from PO Box 50139, Washington, DC 20004): This is the monthly tabloid of CISPES (in case you've been living in a cave, that's the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador). They report on the progress of the war in El Salvador (yes, Virginia, there is a war in El Salvador) as well as events in other countries in the region, including Guatemala and Nicaragua. In addition they provide suggestions for their readers to carry out to influence national and Congressional opinion.

*****

ALTERNATIVE INFO Vol. 1 #1 (37¢ SASE from APRC, c/o See Hear, 59 E. 7th St., New York, NY 10009): This is the newsletter of the Alternative Press & Radio Council, an attempt to bind together the disparate parts of the NY punk scene. They have various literature out, free for the postage: a band directory, a fanzine directory, and a series of newsletters. This issue discusses some of the aims of the APRC and provides the start of what could prove to be a very useful classified ad column.

*****

AMBASSADOR REPORT April 1986 (Donation from PO Box 60068, Pasadena, CA 91106): This is an occasional newsletter for members and ex-members of the Worldwide Church of God, the group (until recently) run by Herbie Armstrong. Armstrong has gone to his reward (whatever that may be) now, and this issue is devoted to an analysis of the power struggles and squabblings that followed his death. The writers are still religious people, for the most part, who feel that the WCG is leading people astray from the true path.

*****

THE AMERICAN Vol. 6 #2 (Donation from PO Box 2362, Texas City, TX 77592): This is the journal of the Constitutional RIghts Foundation, one of the least far-out of the anti-IRS groups. Rather than promise they will keep people out of jail, the CRF promises to help fight, and they're always on the lookout for new defenses. The most recent development is that some patriots are buying a bank in the Pacific country of Nauru, which has no tax treaty with the US, and plan to offer trusts via that bank to people fighting the IRS. This could get interesting.

*****

AMERICAN FORUM 68/69 ($19.95/yr from Box 261, Dept. E, Staten Island, NY 10302): This weekly zine exists to spread the news of whatever editor Vince Palazzolo finds newsworthy. In the past this has included libertarian literature, notices of obscure club meetings (vampire lovers, swingers), newspaper clippings on rape victims fighting back, and a lot of other things. I'm not going to predict what the future might bring.

*****

THE AMERICAN PATRIOT Vol. 38 #9 ($1 from PO Drawer A, Scottsdale, AZ 85252): A monthly tabloid that contains news of horrifying interest to the American conservative. The best part of this issue is the list of the "Dangerous Dozen", those

brainwashed congressmen who are so stupid as to favor the Sandanistas, including Tip O'Neill, Teddy Kennedy and other liberal mushheads. There's also quotes from Ron Reagan's speech on Contra Aid and a roundup of news from around the country.

*****

AMEX SPECIAL SITUATIONS NEWSLETTER Vol.1 #2 ($150/yr from 1450 Broadway, New York, NY 10018): I'm amazed at the price they can command for this 12-page monthly. Allegedly devoted to telling people how to make lots of money, this entire issue is taken up with the retelling of the history and prospects of Lionel Toy Company. Now, it seems to me that they could have said "buy" in much less space, but then, they might have to do some work to fill the rest of the pages.

*****

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3-D KLUB
2148 N. Market
Wichita, Kansas
316-267-5894
BOOKINGS WANTED
316-838-9580
Bob or Charlotte
or
3-D KLUB Bookings
2812 W. 21st North
Wichita, Kansas 67203
Your Oasis In The Midwest
a no-alcohol venue
open for all music

ANARCHISM VS. ANARCHY (80 cents from Bob Black, PO Box 431, Boston, MA 02258): Written by Feral Ranter, an anarchist out in California, this is a response to Chaz Bufe's pamphlet "Listen, Anarchist!", which purported to lay out the ten commandments that all anarchists should follow. Ranter does an adequate job of making Bufe look as stupid as he apparently is; though I disagree with some of his own more extreme anti-tech positions at least Ranter is not afraid to tell us what he thinks rather than what we should think. This stuff has roots in the attempt of PROCESSED WORLD to dominate the Bay Area anarchist scene and subsequent events; if you want to know more about them, write to Bob and ask about his book, BABY AND THE BATHWATER.

*****

ANARCHY #11 ($3/6 issues from CAL, PO Box 380, Columbia, MO 65205): This "Journal of Desire Armed" comes to us from the Columbia Anarchist League, a bunch of fun-loving guys who poke fun at the state while having a good time. Oh sure, there are serious articles like "The contras: U.S. at War!", but for my money the best part of the paper is things like "The Papalagi", an ongoing series alleged to be the evaluation of Capitalist society by a Samoan chief. The letters section is also very well done, with plenty of views being expressed and hotly debated.

*****

ANTI-ISOLATION 2 (FREE from Xerox Sutra Editions, 1341 Williamson, Madison, WI 53703): XSE are prolific publishers of mail art and other small, alternative arts projects. This zine, appearing "when material, finances & time permit" (which means it would be nice to send a donation) is their effort to remain atop the pulse of the alternative arts network. The multi-color xerox features bits and pieces of art, as well as contact addresses, essays (one by Ryosuke Cohen on the Japanese art scene) and ads for various avant-garde artists & publishers. Covers both written & audio works.

*****

ANTIMEDIA #13 (90 cents from Zeno, 7747 16th Ave. NE, Seattle WA 98115 [before 10/1] or 819 Haggett GR-10, Seattle, WA 98195 [after 10/1]): Zeno has developed a unique and successful, if somewhat depressing, format. He reprints stories from major newspapers detailing the dangers of the state, and responds to them from an anarchist viewpoint. Though he understandably gets carried away at times (no, the Maranathas are not Nazis, no matter how sickening they are), overall the commentary makes sense, even when I don't particularly happen to agree. Some particular concerns of AM are vegetarianism, the draft, and Union Carbide.

*****

ANVIL #39 ($5/yr from BSFC, PO Box 59531, Birmingham, AL 35259-95331): This sfanzine is published by members of the Birmingham SF Club, and is attempting to make the transition from clubzine to genzine. That means they're leaving out minutes & treasurer's reports, and leaving in fannish articles, the lettercol, and the like. ANVIL's main attraction is its good selection of short but interesting articles and stories; Merlin Odom contributes a couple of awful puns, while Barbara Harmon contributes an amusing piece on middle-aged fandom and Marc Ortlieb discusses mowing the lawn.

*****

A&P FANZINE (from Albert Asthma c/o Frank Baumeister, Frankenstr. 14, 5600 Wuppertal 1, W. GERMANY): What appears to be a hardcore pfanzine with lots of pictures and interviews and a fair bit of political content. I say "appears" because my high school German is too rusty to let me actually read this one. Cover price is 2 DM, but if you want an overseas copy, I'd say you should send plenty of IRCs, as this is a full-size 40-page zine.

*****

APA-RENGA #1 ($5 from PO Box 429, Monte RIo, CA 95462): This is quite simply an interactive poetry apa. Submissions consist of either the beginning of a poem or the continuation of a poem already begun by someone else. Since more than one person might continue a poem in any issue, they can grow out into elaborate tree-like structures. The $12 fee is to open an account, from which expenses

will be deducted as they occur. This one is just starting; you can get in on the ground floor.

*****

APA-TAROT #7 (write to Rita Prince Winston, 254 S. Mariposa #10, Los Angeles, CA 90004): As one might expect, this is an apa devoted to Tarot cards and the occasional related subject. In less than a year it's grown to 80+ pages, a pretty impressive showing, especially when one considers the number of drawings reproduced in members' zines. The people here do tend to believe in the Tarot; they discuss techniques and symbolism, as well as new decks and proposals for modifying old ones. Overall it strikes me as a friendly place for those who know of the Tarot or want to learn more.

*****

ARMAGEDDONQUEST #1 ($1.50 from Starhead Comix, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): The first book in what is going to be a long serialized comic novel. This one introduces the character Tazio, aka Theron, who is destined to grow up an be the Antichrist. The story of his youth in an Italian villa is given here, surrounded by supernatural and just plain strange beings and his homicidal mother, who knows what she has done to the world. Well drawn and with hints of a Byzantine plot to come, this is a series to keep an eye on.

*****

ARTITUDE #11 (50¢ from Carl Howard, 209-25 18 Ave., Bayside, NY 11360): ARTITUDE is a smallish tabloid that explores the extreme boundaries of music and culture, wandering off into places where there is only sound and fury. The musicians featured in this issue are Edward Ka-Spel, Elliott Sharp, and Mashineraum, if that gives you any clue. There's also a discussion with Pennie Stasik of POLLUTION CONTROL magazine about the current state of the music industry. I was particularly amused by the rebuttla to the Mashineraum interview, where one of the band members accuses Carl's analysis of containing a lot more academic points than were ever put in by the band.

*****

ARTPOLICE, Summer 1986 (from 3131 First Ave So., Minneapolis, MN 55408): On the first page of this art magazine it says "single issues $15.00 each. We accept trades, barter & love gifts. We make no promises, we make art, and if you don't like it selavy." Indeed, this is not being operated to interact with the reader but rather to make a presentation to him -- page after page of drawings and collages with strange images that say, "If you don't like this, lump it." There has recently been a scandal in the Mpls. art world over alleged anti-semitism in the works of Artpolice; I don't think this has any grounding in facts.

*****

ASIAN-PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT ($10/yr from Sahabat Alam Malaysia, 27, Lorong Birch, Penang, MALAYSIA): A very impressive newspaper covering all manner of environmental concerns in the Pacific basin. There are dozens of stories in these 16 typeset pages, covering topics as diverse as the preservation of the Sumatran rhino, rare earth mining in Malaysia, whaling, the Antarctic treaty, the Bhopal disaster, aboriginal land rights in Australia, and much more. A real eye-opener, there are plenty of problems here that you won't find out about from the US press.

*****

ASTROLOGY AND PSYCHIC NEWS ($1.50 from CAA, Dept. J, PO Box 810, N. Hollywood, CA 91603): CAA is the California Astrology Association, and this tabloid is their attempt to rake in the cash as fast as possible. Newspaper-style stories of psychic workings are interspersed with dozens of ads for astrological readings, "Problem Dolls", lucky charms, and services from the CAA's stable of witches, shamans and other magical performers. You too can send away $15 for a spell to be cast, no guarantee. Or for $16.95 they will apply "Einstein's formula" to your future. Too obviously a con to be very funny.

*****

ATROPHI (Send stamps to 1618 Lombard, Lobby Apt., San Francisco, CA 94123): ATROPHI was once a very confusing magazine of art. However, publisher j.atrophi has been going through difficult times and says "many and graphic images came into existence during this period. However, nothing cohesive enough for the realisation of a single Atrophi. You are therefore to be bombarded by single-page mini-atrophi's until I exorcise myself of these damned images." This broadside features collage art and bizarre poetry.

*****

BABUSHKIN'S DIGEST Vol. 2 #5 (Donation from L. Bush, PO Box 128, Rosendale, NY 12472): "Dedicated to the defeat of the counterrevolution", BD slips out from under my thumb whenever I think I have it adequately pigeonholed. For the most part handwritten, and with noticeable anti-authoritarian and Jewish influences, BD is still unpredictable. This issue features a song dedicated to Imelda Marcos, a dream about socialism, and a series of unbelieveable facts about our attempts to destroy the Nicaraguan government.

*****

BACK TO GODHEAD Vol. 21 #5 ($12/yr from PO Box 133, Line Lexington, PA 18932-0133): This is the monthly slick of the International Society For Krishna Consciousness, better known as the "Hare Krishnas". It is in fact pretty interesting, and even ocntains some stuff of use to the rest of us, like vegetarian recipes. There are also, not surprisingly, articles about why ISKCON is a good alternative to the world as it is, and discussions of various spiritual doctrines complete with the original Sanskrit texts.

*****

BAD MEAT Spring 1986 ($1 (?) from Mark Tyler, 412 Fleetwood, Bartlesville, OK 74006): A selection of Mark's incoming mail combines with live and recorded music reviews to fill out this zine. Mark has wide-ranging interests; included in this issue are a plea from the National Space Society for shuttle replacement funds and Subterranean Records promise to send more ads in the future.

*****

BAD NEWS April 1986 ($1.50 from Artists & Writers Underground, c/o Robert Z., 196 7th Ave. #3, Brooklyn, NY 11215): A mixed punk 'n poetry zine -- sort of like finding auto parts and flowers on sale in the same store. Highlight of the punk section is a seven-page Greg Ginn interview, reproduced complete with all of the guitarist's mumblings and incoherencies. Highlight of the poetry section ... well, I'm not sure there is any highlight here, but they are looking for stuff from "punk poets" to fill out the section.

*****

BANG! #12 ($1 from Rocco Cipollone, 77 Newbern Ave., Medford, MA 02155): BANG! is a pfanzine that knows just what it is trying to do, and does it while ignoring all the trends in printed matter these days. Instead of interviews, they do stories; instead of scribbles in the margin, the stories are headed by well-shot and screened photographs. The bulk of the zine consists of these stories, complete qith quotes and news; a few of the bands in this issue include the Pandoras, Ed Gein's Car and Salem 66. Also reviews current recordings.

*****

BASEBALL CARDS August 1986 ($2.25 from 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54945): Just what it says, a magazine for the baseball card collector. I see from its price listings that I made a big mistake getting rid of my baseball cards when I left childhood -- if you've still got yours, don't do the same. Features full-color pictures, pricelist, ads (lots of them), advice on which cards to buy now, and a Q&A column for the serious collector.

*****

BAY WINDOWS Vol. 4 #16 ($35/yr from 1515 Washington St., Boston, MA 02118): This is a weekly tabloid aimed at New England's gay and lesbian community. They cover both local and national news, with the cover story this issue being on the trial of Robert Gravel, who was forced to shoot a man pursuing him in self-defense (he wasn't indicted). While AIDS is still a major concern here, there isn't the overwhelming feeling of doom presented by some gay publications, and there are plenty of articles on arts & entertainment and the like. Contains lots of ads, both display and classified.

*****

BEATLESS NEWS #3 (50 cents (?) from 3107 S. Mt. Carmel, Wichita, KS 67217): A pfanzine that's trying to help out the scene in Wichita, particularly the underage scene (since the dinking age in Kansas is on its way up). Loosely tied to the 3-D Klub, they cover a lot of acts playing that venue, in a fun little computer-laid out zine.

*****

BEEF Vol. 6 #18 ($12/yr from 659 Haight, San Francisco, CA 94117): BEEF is a magazine for the alternative in art that does not stick to the same alternatives found everywhere else. Without this

tabloid, for example, I would never have learned of Thierry Noir and Christophe Bouchet, who have covered miles of the Berlin Wall with bright paintings, nor of BALA, the Bay Area Lawyers for the Arts, who help artists protect themselves from the "Van Gogh Syndrome". Also features music and a few zine reviews, though they're dropping the latter for lack of space.

*****

BESIDE MYSELF ($1 (?) from Cerebral Discourse, PO Box 95455, Seattle, WA 98145-2455): A small booklet of collages from the bizarre Seattle crowd, including works by Burnt Raisins, Phleghm Pets, Just Termites and others. Well done, photographic quality work. As always with CD productions, images of perverted and stultifying technology are the main theme here. Some works have details in color.

*****

BEYOND #4 ($4 from Other World Books, PO Box 1124, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410): "Science fiction & fantasy", proclaims the masthead, and this zine has an ample measure of both. As with the prozines, I find that most of the stories here don't do much for me, but there are exceptions. Best of the lot is d.e. smirl's "The All Night Drug Store", a happy little tale of a man bouncing back from despair to save his own life. Edward Loti's "Maude's Home Eatery" is a cute little horror/fantasy tale, while Scott Green's poem "The K-Whopper & the Light in the Sky" is the sort of SF I like -- unexpected, amusing, and even a bit silly.

*****

BEYOND THE BLACKOUT #3,4 ($2 each from 1765 N. Highland Ave. Box 1703, Hollywood, CA 90078): A pfanzine distinguished by a wealth of interesting and well-printed photographs, thanks to co-editor Chris. Most of the rest of the format consists of interviews, including a few relatively big-name acts (Ramones, Green on Red) as well as lesser-knowns (Meteors, Stingrays). Also features reviews of sleazy movies. #4 is a special all-photo issue.

*****

BIG MOUNTAIN NEWS, Spring 1986 ($5-10/yr (sliding scale) from Big Mountain Support Group, 1412 Cypress, Berkeley, CA 94703): As I write this review, the Navajos are scheduled to be relocated from Big Mountain tomorrow, but I wouldn't be surprised if resistance was still going on when you get this FF. There's a complicated fuss going on in Arizona, involving two indian tribes, the US government, and a host of mining concerns, focusing on resettling indians -- either to get at the coal, or to ease tensions, depending on who you believe. This tabloid is put out by some of the liberals who have gotten involved to help the indians and contains current news, history, and ideas on resistance.

*****

BLACK MARKET #4 ($1.50 from 405 W. Washington St. #212, San Diego, CA 92103): A pfanzine for those of you fascinated with black leather, studs, and large amounts of violence. Actually, this attitude comes most to the fore in the comics, particularly Lee's "Mad Marc Rude" strip. "Ferret" and "Young and the Restless" are also featured here. There are plenty of band interviews (including ones with UK Subs and Vandals), reviews, local anarchist news, and a nice 4-color cover for you, er, bleeding heart types.

*****

BLACK STAR Vol. 4 #1 ($1.25 from PO Box 3506, Tucson, AZ 85722): A small anarchist tabloid that Views With Horror the evil machinations of the state. The centerfold and main article in this issue considers the historical ties between the Catholic Church and fascism; also included are selections of Francisco Uronde's poetry and a review of a couple of books about the Contras and what nasty people they are.

*****

BLOW IT OFF #11 (50¢ from PO Box 2271, Bloomington, IN 47402): Your basic pfanzine, with loads and loads of reviews (and they're typed and laid out so as to be easy to read -- a welcome change from some other pubs). This issue also has an interview with the bass player from Tar Babies and the first bit of Holocaust-hoax revisionism that I've seen in a pfanzine, printed without editorial comment.

*****

BLUEPRINT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE May 1986 (Donation from Loyola IHR, Loyola University, Box 12, New Orleans, LA 70118): Put out by the Loyola University Institute of Human Relations, much of this is written by Jesuits, and it tends to be very thought-provoking. The BLUEPRINT focusss in on a different social problem each issue, and in 6 or 8 pages tries to at least explain what's wrong, if not always come up with a solution. In this issue, hunger in the US is the topic, and I was shocked at the graph showing the sharp rise in the number of children under the poverty line in this country.

*****

THE BOB #27 ($2 from 151 First Ave., #F, New York, NY 10003): For their 5th anniversary, this tabloid pfanzine has really outdone itself. First of all, it's a double issue, with all of the great band articles and interviews you have come to expect, headlined by R.E.M., but also including Scratch Acid, Dick Manitoba, Lifeboat and plenty of others. Second, they've managed to package an R.E.M. flexidisc ("Femme Fatale" is the featured song) with this issue, and will be putting the picture sleeve in with #28. Things are really taking off for THE BOB, and I wish them at least five more good years.

*****

BORDER WATCH Vol. 5 #1 ($1 from AICF, PO Box 525, Monterey, VA 24465): That's the American Immigration Control Foundation and BW is their tabloid, reporting on the dimensions of illegal immigration into the US. They adopt a relatively level-headed view, that immigration laws should be enforced rather than that immigrants are subhuman. Underlying this, though, is the idea that Americans are privileged to live here and ought not to share. Contains real news and not scare stories.

*****

BOX OF WATER #2 ($3 from 135 Cole St., San Francisco, CA 94117): This black-on-gray mail-art zine has a distinct internationalist flavor, with contributors from 17 different countries appearing in this issue. For the most part this art is original drawings rather than collage or rubber-stamping, though there are exceptions. Also contains a large section of zine reviews, focusing on the international mail-art zine and listing lots of things that I don't review. Looking for submissions but does not guarantee to use them.

*****

BUF-O, May 1986 (3 stamps from Klaus Haisch, 1729 E. Tabor St., Indianapolis, IN 46203): Klaus is interested in all sorts of things near and dear to us Lowlife Scum (see review of SSQ, above). In this issue he starts with a discussion of the Frankie & Annette beach movies, then goes on for a comic review and a reprinted review of Wrestlemania II. A crossword puzzle featuring famous Bruces and a few comic strips round out the package. Looking for readers & contributors.

*****

BVI-PACIFICA Vol. 1 #4 ($2 from Yael Dragwyla, PO Box 1548, Goleta, CA 93116-1548): Part of the incredible shrinking BVI horde of magazines, this one actually has some life of its own. Yael is a hermeticist, as well as part of the network of loonies that has made parts of FF so confusing in the past, and her zine reflects this. Each issue contains poetry, collages, and a host of advertisements for even stranger literature. Lots of good SubGenial stuff in this issue, including an analysis of Slack by Rev. Dr. Onan Canobite.

*****

CARIBBEAN NEWSLETTER Vol. 6 #6 (Donation from Friends for Jamaica, PO Box 20392, Cathedral Finance Stn., New York, NY 10025): A newsletter that tries to keep track of all of the confusing political and social events in the Caribbean. #6 is acutally an update to #5, featuring a bunch of "newsbriefs" to complement the longer articles in #5 such as "A Class History of Haiti Part I" and "Grenada: Sham Murder Trial Underway". Notable for coverage of the out-of-the-way spots in the region as well as well-known places like Jamaica or Grenada.

*****

CASE & COMMENT Vol. 91 #1 ($7.50/yr from 50 Braod St. E., Rochester, NY 14694): This is actually a slick zine "for practicing lawyers" but it's amusing nonetheless. It alternates straightforward explanations of various laws (like when a product is defective or how to deal with the IRS when they want your client to waive his rights) with legal gobbledegook. Particularly amusing are the advertisements -- leather chairs for $400 each, or all the documents, stock certificates and corporate seal to incorporate for $47.50.

CATALOGS

Everyone loves a catalog in the mail. Here's a few I've gotten over the past couple of months.

BANANA REPUBLIC (PO Box 7737, San Francisco, CA 94120): OK, this one is sort of Yuppie, but I like it anyhow. BR sells clothing for travelers, and their catalog has sort of a safari-like atmosphere even though most of this stuff is made in Italy or England. I can recommend their 100% cotton Bush Vest to anyone who has ever had the problem of filling their pockets to overflowing -- it's incredibly useful to be able to carry 15 pounds of stuff in one's pockets.

BLACK LAKE ORGANIC (4711 Black Lake Blvd. SW, Olympia, WA 98502): Actually, I can't be sure whether this is a newsletter or a catalog. Either way it deals with organic gardening, with prices for their store as well as views and ideas on the best way to do things.

JENSEN TOOLS (7815 S. 46th St., Phoenix, AZ 85044-5399): Another item for those with money to burn. Jensen sells tools, wonderful tools, expensive tools. I want their JTK-87 portable tool kit but my wife won't let me spend six hundred bucks on it. Fun to dream about anyhow.

ARCHIE McPHEE & COMPANY (PO Box 30852, Seattle, WA 98103): Toys! And also kitsch with no redeeming value whatsoever. America's biggest supplier of lawn flamingoes, they also carry an assortment of other goods such as punk dolls, plastic fish, duck hats and the travel edition of Mr. Potato Head, for those of us who remember using real potatoes instead of the plastic shit they sell these days.

RESEARCH UNLIMITED (PO Box 448, Fremont, NE 68025): These people cater to the treasure hunter and as such they carry a wide assortment of gold pans and sluices, rock hammers, metal detectors, miscellaneous outdoor and survival gear, and even dowsing rods. A specialized firm for a specialized market.

SI (PO Box 3796, Gardena, CA 90247): These folks sell all the things you need to survive the civil disaster of your choice, including freeze-dried food packs, tents, slingshots and plenty of books on the subject.

Remember, manufacturers send out free catalogs in the hopes that you will buy something. Be cool and don't order ones you know you'll never use.

*****

CATALYST KOMICS #10 ($1 (?) from John Rininger, 202 S. Lincoln #6, Urbana, IL 61801-3050): This is a multi-media mail art effort. Don't expect any plot in this comic, just an assault on your vision. The front cover uses pencil shavings, crayon and transparent plastic to acheive its effect; inside are carefully cut pictures, computer cards, a page from an encyclopedia, and more. Perhaps you can make something out of this.

*****

CEA OF OLYMPIA NEWSLETTER ($6/yr from 2628 Galloway St., Olympia, WA 98501): CEA is the Childbirth Education Association, and they really seem to have their act together in Olympia. Their newsletter keeps track of the new obstetricians in town, discusses hospital policies, has information on upcoming birth classes, and contains thoughts from new and old mothers on how to cope with having children. Not too useful if you're not int he area, unless you want to try and start something like this where you are.

*****

CELIMPEK CORPORATION CHRONICLES (SASE from CLiff McPeek, 400 Maloney, Knoxville, TN 3337920): From the former producer of Creative Imagination Ltd. comes this new mail-art based zine. There's more than just collages here, though, as the Celimpeckers have taken it upon themselves to investigate such topics as the existence of nonexistence and and lucid dreaming. Sort of a papyrus acid trip. Cliff is looking for contributions for the next issue, so get them scissors and glue rolling!

*****

CENTER FOR SHAMANIC STUDIES NEWSLETTER Summer 1986 ($10/yr from PO Box 673, Belden Stn., Norwalk, CT 06852): The CSS is essentially Michael Harner, who teaches a method of shamanism based on both historical methods and his own innovations. The newsletter is concerned mostly with announcing the schedule for his forthcoming classes and the requirements for applying. Aimed at the upscale New Age crowd, the sort who can afford to go to Esalen for 3 weeks.

*****

CENTRAL AMERICA REPORT (Donation from CAEF, 1151 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138): Issued by the Central America Education Fund with the help of the Central America Solidarity Association and the Pledge of Resistance (my, how we love to organize!) this is at best a very one-sided view of events in Central America, bassed on the premise that the US ought to get out and stay out. Now, that might be true, but I think there is room for a little debate and openmindedness. Then again, I don't see anything openminded from the other side either. Good coverage of Pledge of Resistance actions.

*****

CHANGING MEN #16 ($4.50 from 306 N. Brooks, Madison, WI 53715): Relatively few people know that the women's movement has spawned a corresponding men's movement. This journal "is dedicated to discussing issues important to changing men, affirming a healthy, life-loving non-oppressive masculinity, and supporting the network of men and women working to end sexism." Most of the articles, rather than being about any sort of change, are attempts to come to grips with what it is to be male in our society. While recognizing a problem is the first step towards solving it, these people do not yet seem to be making the next step.

*****

CHEAP TRUTH 15 (SASE from Vincent Omniveritas, 809-C West 12th St., Austin, TX 78701): This single-sheeter sfanzine is a lone voice crying out in the wilderness, and what it is saying is "C'mon, guys, lighten up!" Vincent just plain doesn't like the rightwing trend of some SF these days, and so he publicizes the alternatives, in as flashy and stylistic a manner as possible. Each issue of CT is different; this one has a guest article from Hunilla de Cholo on the non-innovativeness of SF. Also try the CT bulletin board at 512-UFO-SMOF; 300/1200 baud.

*****

CHRISTIAN ANTI-COMMUNIST CRUSADE Vol. 26 #7 (FREE from PO Box 890, Long Beach, CA 90801): You know what they're about, so let me just describe the contents of this issue. Most of it is devoted to a discussion of the position of the Communist party in the Phillipines; much of the rest concerns Communist influences in South Africa's African National Congress (ANC). The people behind this newsletter are also active in giving seminars as well as putting out other literature and audio & videotapes.

*****

CHRISTIANS AWAKE NEWSLETTER June 1986 (Donation from PO Box 3513, West End Station, Birmingham, AL 35211): After reading this I have no idea what these people are for. They are against Freemasons, the American system of government, communism, socialism, and the IRS, as well as credit, banks, and probably computers. Moderately amusing but mainly confusing.

*****

THE CITIZEN'S CLAW June 1986 ($1 cash/postal MO from S.A. Freeman, PO Box 441, Morongo Valley, CA 92256): This is the monthly newsletter of New Nation USA, a group of patriots who are trying to restructure the country back into agreement with the original Constitution. Every month they put forth ideas on how to do this, and this time they're concentrating on receiving "reverse foreign aid" from international relief organizations for American political prisoners.

*****

COLDCOCKED #4 (SASE (?) from PO Box 14231, Minneapolis, MN 55414): Two-sheeter dedicated to offending as many people as possible in a vaguely punkoid vein. The most amusing part of this was "Dear Ed", an advice column written by the late lamented Ed Gein. There are a page of record & book ratings and a number of short stories with more atmosphere than plot here as well.

*****

THE COLLECTIVE NETWORKER NEWSLETTER #97 ($1 from PO Box 912, San Francisco, CA 94101): A collectively-written journal that "is designed to help people connect with others who are exploring ways to live, work, and play collectively and communally." The main focus seems to be on the problems of collectives and how to solve them. Having lived in a couple of communal houses, I'm not

so sure I see them as much more than an economic dodge to avoid the high cost of rent, rather than the wave of the future as they are portrayed here. Peg Fitzmaurice writes a nice article on the morals (or lack thereof) of the left.

*****

COMBO COMICS ($1.50 from David Steinlicht, PO Box 3154, Minneapolis, MN 55403-0154): A collection of stuff from about a dozen Minnesota artists, in 8 1/2 x 11 black and white format. I dunno, maybe it's the winters in Minnesota, but most of this stuff seems just pointless to me. I did get a laugh out of Bill Fugate's strip, David's own stuff is always interesting, and Clark DIssmeyer's back cover was pretty disturbing, but that's about it for this one.

*****

CONFESSIONS OF A FAILED YUPPIE (The Usual from Neil Kaden, 1104 Longhorn Dr., Plano, TX 75023): This is actually a collection of three short sfanzines from Neil, all packaged together. The first one recounts his experiences as host for Jack Herman's DUFF visit to Texas. The second is a long discussion of the circumstances surrounding his promotion at work. The third is the title zine, in which he complains that mere possessions do not a Yuppie make. Fairly interesting writing, but I'd like to know more about Neil and less about his work.

*****

CONFLICT 41 ($0.75 from Gerard Cosloy, 62 Avenue C #3, New York, NY 10009): I used to think that Gerard and I just didn't like the same music, until I read his reviews a bit more closely and discovered that he hates damned near everything. CONFLICT concentrates mainly on reviewing records in a couple of paragraphs each, with pauses to insult people, make fun of their letters, and spread gossip of dubious authenticity. Rapidly becoming the most hated pfanzine in New York, possibly in the world.

*****

CONTENTIONS, May 1986 (FREE from Committee for the Free World, 211 East 51 St., New York, NY 10022): A small journal featuring a variety of short essays written from a generally conservative viewpoint. The writers do not put forth any particular political or social platform of their own; rather, they are content to point out how stupid the liberals and radicals are acting from time to time. Essays in this issue include on on the sermonizing bias of the entertainment media, and a consideration of the intellectual in society.

*****

COPPERHEAD (SASE from Ami Pate, 1166 N. 3rd St., Coos Bay, OR 97420-2405): This "culture review" seems to have been generated by vast and random thought processes. All of the sentences in the stories and poems have perfectly proper english syntax, they all fit together nicely, and just as the reader is being lulled into a false sense of security...all meaning vanishes entirely. These are sort of like Zen koans for Cub Scouts.

*****

CORNERSTONE #77 ($1.75 from Jesus People USA, 4707 N. Malden, Chicago, IL 60640): With the bright colors and the coverage of rock music (but only from GOOD groups) this one seems intended to take away some of the pfanzine readers and lead them back to righteousness. Most of the magazine, though, is concerned with issues rather than rock, letting the reader know why he should believe in Christ and what to think about abortion, South Africa, and other subjects. There is some debate here, but so many of the premises are taken for granted that it tends to be one-sided.

*****

COUNTRY SOUNDS Introductory Issue ($9.95/yr from 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990): This is a new tabloid aimed at collectors and lovers of country music. There are articles on major country artists (Dan Seals, Ernest Tubb, Nanci Griffith), tour itineraries conveniently arranged by state instead of by performer, and tons of ads offering records for sale or trade. A handy bonus in this first issue is a guide to buying records by mail, which helps decipher many of the ads.

*****

THE COVENANT MESSAGE Vol. 53 #8 ($10/yr from PO Box 830, Honeydew 2040, SOUTH AFRICA): This one is a peculiar blend of evangelical Christianity and conspiracy theory. They don't come right out and accuse any particular group of persecuting South Africa, but they do identify the International Bankers, backed by the Russians, as the force behind the anti-apartheid demonstrations in the United States. All of this is wrapped up in a confusing package of Popes, Bilderbergers and the Ruling Class and presented for the reader's confusion.

*****

THE CPSR NEWSLETTER Vol. 4 #2 ($1 from PO Box 717, Palo Alto, CA 94301): Published by Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, this one should help to kill the myth that all computer folks are heartless fascists, but it probably won't. The major article in this issue is from David Parnas explaining why he quit the advisory panel on Star Wars software. There's also news of the CPSR annual meeting and a list of contacts. The individual members are active too; one is suing the US government to get launch on warning declared unconstitutional.

*****

CRASHING WAVES 7 ($5/6 issues from CHris Rawlins, PO Box 335, Woodside, NY 11377): A small pfanzine digest loosely revolving around the New York club scene. This issue is good for complimentary admission to the Cat Club on East 13th. There is a little bit of gossip and an interview with Howard Ostrowsky, but the bulk of the zine is filled with short reviews of records. The layout is attractive and the "Reviex" are straightforward.

*****

CRAWL OR DIE #1 (75 cents from Scott Miller, PO Box 981, Rockville, MD 20851): A very impressive first issue pfanzine from someone who is obviously hyperactive in his scene. There's a comix influence in the headers and handwritten parts but the whole zine is very readable and jampacked with dozens of reviews -- live, recorded, fanzine and comics. One of the most extensive zine review sections anywhere, complete with cover reproductions. Also features intelligent thought on the state of the scene, problems at shows, the PMRC and other subjects.

*****

CRUSADE TO ABOLISH TRAFFIC TICKETS (Details FREE from 5410 Wilshire Blvd. #409, Los Angeles, CA 90036): Clarence Shak figures that traffic fines are unconstitutional, and that we could abolish them if only we all fought the system. This isn't new, but his proposed system -- that of paying a bounty to people who do fight -- is. It's an interesting idea, and one that could work if enough people got involved. Worth looking into if you've gotten any tickets lately or expect to get them in the future.

*****

THE CRYSTAL BALL #19 ($2.50 from Harvey Larson, PO Box 4080, Torrance, CA 90510): "A continuous compilation of predictions, prophecies and forecasts" along with commentary by the editor. Larson has a lot of sources, ranging from financial newsletters to religious tracts to his own horse sense to downright loonies. He breaks up the paper into various sections (Armageddon, Around the World, Financial, UFOs) and groups the predictions by topic. Also includes letters and bibliographic notes. An excellent digest of strange ideas.

*****

DAILY IMPULSE #6 ($5/yr from PO Box 90312, San Diego, CA 92109): A well put together zine from the "Open Road Club", a loose coalition of anti-authoritarians and anarchists in the Diego area. There are a batch of informative articles in this issue including a reprint of POINT-BLANK's classic "Do-it-yourself Anarchy" and one on producing your own propaganda. Also contains local news of actions by and for anarchists, punks, and others.

*****

DAILY WORD, June 1986 ($2/yr from Unity School of Christianity, Unity Village, MO 64065): These people are big on the power of prayer. They've had tag-team prayer going on in their chapel continuously, day and night, for over 100 years. If you subscribe, they'll send you these little books with one prayer per day, to make things easy on your schedule, as well as articles about what great work they're doing. And, incidentally, they need money for a new building.

*****

DEAD FISH #6 (50¢ & a stamp from 2301 Prairie, Aurora, IL 60506-5235): From the people who are also Extinct Productions [see DISTRIBUTORS column] comes the pfanzine that asks "What do they pack styrofoam in?" Interviews with Blatant Dissent, Naked Raygun (they sound like real assholes) and the Descendants in this issue. There's also a batch of

vaguely anti-authoritarian stuff, including an article condemning religion, an article condemning anarchy, and an article praising No Business As Usual, but I don't think they're commies.

*****

DEAD ON ARRIVAL #3 (SASE for sample from Jeff Queen, PO Box 825, Sheboygan, WI 53082-0825): This is a fanzine for fans of sleazy movies. There are already a couple of these out there, but Jeff has a new territory staked out: he's concentrating on obscure bootlegs and other hard-to-find videotape material. The movies he reviews in this issue (WHIP THE FLESH, STREET TRASH, GRETA THE MAD BUTCHER) sound pretty revolting; I'm just as glad that I'm not likely to run across them on late-night TV. DOA's classified ad section contains leads for those wishing to find copies of at least some of these gems.

*****

DEADBEAT #2 ($2.50 from 1338 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117): The cover says this is the "Special Romance Issue", but not much of it is romantic and some of the violent images are rather disturbing. An artistic tabloid, most of this one is taken up by short stories about the way men and women (or men and men) mis/treat one another in pursuit of love and sex. One hopes that most of this is only a healthy overreaction to being exposed to too much political correctness, but I dunno.

*****

DECENTRALIZE #1 ($1 from Carol Moore, Box 106, 632 Cloverdale, Los Angeles, CA 90036): One woman's attempt to promote discussion of "non-violent radical decentralist society". Her view of the future is apparently similar to what some libertarians and anarchists have called "panarchy": autonomous communities with different values peacefully coexisting. This first issue is useful as a source of ideas on where to look for more information on current attempts at promoting local autonomy. Although Carol occasionally wanders off into what I consider nutbar stuff (The effects of sunspot cycles on activism, for example) for the most part this is an inspirational zine. Looking for input from readers for the next issue.

*****

THE DECLINE OF (ANTI-) WESTERN CIVILIZATION (from New Rage, PO Box 11492, Eugene, OR 97440): Of late a number of what might almost be called "position papers" have been cricula'ing in samisdat form amongst members of the American anarchist community. This critique of the magazine FIFTH ESTATE, by Dan Todd, is one of them. Dan ateempts, by printing a few letters from the FE people together with his own responses, to come to some sort of conclusions as to the direction and worth of large anarchist projects and journals. It's interesting stuff, but only to those already familiar with much of the background material. Dan may send copies to those who know, or I'll copy it for you for $2 to cover my costs.

*****

DELINEATOR #3 ($3 from Alan White, 455 E. 7th St. #4, San Jacinto, CA 92383-8401): Alan White has been hanging around LA fandom for nigh on to 20 years now (and for all I knew our paths have crossed at come drunken party or other) and now he's publishing a sfanzine that is a welcome sight for any expatriate Angelino. DELINEATOR has a different feel from most sfanzines, featuring quite a few photos (including some rather salacious nuns) and plenty of gossip about people, places and parties. The lettercol is doing great for a third issue.

*****

DE PROFUNDIS #172 ($5/yr from LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91601): The sfanzine put out by the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, one of the oldest & most respected SF clubs. The zine, though, is not about to win any awards, being a mimeographed deal that concentrates on a local calendar and the minutes of various LASFS meetings. It's timely, and useful locally, but nothing to write home about.

*****

DIALOGUE #61 (Sample FREE from Brad Ott, 916 Euterpe St., New Orleans, LA 70130): "New Orleans Alternative Monthly Newsjournal" hasn't been quite monthly lately, but its doing well in spite of financial pressure and ambitious plans for the future. Brad and his writers are informative without being doctrinaire; each issue is a nice mix of graphics (including my favorite, Archihorse) and words, with feature articles this time on a visit to the Soviet Union and the revolution in Nicaragua, along with much local and national news.

*****

THE DILLINGER RELIC 46 ($1 from Arthur D. Hlavaty, 819 W. Markham Ave., Durham, NC 27701): This is Uncle Arthur's very own sfanzine, in which he steadfastly refuses to talk about SF (well, most of the time) and instead presents us with the particulars of his life and the strange country in which he is residing. Arthur is one of those folks who can write with wit about almost anything, although I don't understand why he would rather talk about his colon than fascinating things like car repairs. In any case, DR is by now a fannish institution, and I recommend you see a copy before it gets institutionalized.

*****

DIRECT ACTION #24 ($15/yr from 3126 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705): The sort of "direct action" involved here is non-violent civil disobedience rather than bomb-throwing, as this tabloid has a more liberal than anarchist slant. Their news coverage is generally good, though I quibble about their using "nuclear" as a scare-word in the headline for a story having nothing to do with nukes. In this issue they attempt to explore the connection -- if any -- between liberal do-goodism and traditional union organizing.

*****

DISCUSSION BULLETIN #17 ($3/6 issues from PO Box 1564, Grand Rapids, MI 49501): DB is an apa for people who perceive themselves as part of a political "third force", neither capitalist nor communist but something in between. There's a wide variety of socialists, syndicalists and yes, even anarchists, writing in these pages. Current topics of discussion include the necessity (or lack thereof) for labor vouchers in a socialist society and the ways in which socialist rhetoric is unclear or misleading to the average worker.

*****

THE DISHWASHER'S QUARTERLY ($1 from Scott Bennett, 108 Lincoln Place #4, Brooklyn, NY 11217): This zine comes out every once in a while (certainly not as often as quarterly) and chronicles, in word and picture, the author's life as a professional dishwasher. Or perhaps it only chrnicles his bizarre fantasies. Anyhow, this issue has the story of washing dishes on an oil rig, as well as some bizarre cartooning about a growth on someone's ear. Not a major literary achievement, but not chopped liver either.

*****

DISTORTED #2 ($1 from I.M.P., PO Box 334, Lakeside, CA 92040): Pfanzine with some short-short stories and poetry tucked in amongst the pictures. A lot of this stuff is pretty uninspired, but I was struck by one story about this kid writing papers and getting grades on his efforts that had lasting effects. Xeroxed photos, by-mail band interviews with the likes of Conservative Itch and Habeas Corpus.

*****

DOO/DAH #2 ($7/yr from Dean Cole, 3336 Hoover Ave., Bloomfield, NJ 07003): This is the fanzine of the Bonzo Dog Band Fan CLub, and a wonderful thing it is indeed. Now, you might not think that a band that broke up 15 years ago could generate much fandom, but one look at this multi-colored extravaganza, dripping with press clippings (literally -- they're xeroxed on little bits of paper) would convince you otherwise. After all these years there are plenty of Bonzo fanatics left around, and this zine is put out by three of the most fanatic. Send them your hard-earned dollars and you'll get more than you ever dreamed of relating to those wackos from England who started this whole nonsense. Great fun.

*****

DOWNTOWN #9 (151 First Ave., New York, NY 10003): This is one of those tabloids that is free if you can find them in the city where they come out -- otherwise, no one ever dreams that you might like to subscribe. DT spans a curious range, from ads for Stallone's COBRA to a James Dean Walking Tour, from SWEET CHARITY on Broadway to Wendy O. Williams at the Ritz. Also carries free classified ads.

*****

D.M. NEWSLETTER #33 (SASE from PO Box 58152, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8152): This is the self-published fanzine for the Dead Milkmen, the confusing little four-piece that has recorded such goodies as "Bitchin Camaro" and "Tiny Town" [see FF16]. The big news in this issue is that their

second LP will be out soon; there are also tour photos, fanzine reviews, and general silliness.

*****

DRAGONSMOKE #10 ($1 from PO Box 7627, Menlo Park, CA 94026): This is one family's contribution to having friendly fun with the rest of the world. The Albrechts' particular interests are role-playing games, computers and learning, and so DS concentrates on those three topics. There are introductory-level chats on RPGs, little computer programs, thoughts on how to teach role-playing in elementary-school classrooms, and more. All on a pretty basic level, this one would be good for families with young kids and time to spend with them.

*****

DREAMSHORE #28 ($1 from 618 S. Mitchell, Bloomington, IN 47401): DS is a zine for people who like to have fun, and who haven't forgotten what that means. There are old movies here, and Japanese fairy tales, and space shuttles, and imaginery worlds, and so much more. Highlights of this issue inclue V. Heinrich Liedtke's screed on the problems of modern paganism, and Mela's wonderful snide reportage on the history of Theosophy.

*****

THE DROOD REVIEW OF MYSTERY Vol. VI #4 ($12/12 issues from PO Box 8872, Boston, MA 02114): DROOD tries to cover the entire field of mystery and thrillers, reviewing mainly current novels but occasionally dipping into the past to do a retrospective on a particular author or series. This issue leads off with reviews of the latest from Robert Parker and John le Carre; inside are an interview with Susanne Kirk, editor at Scribners, and more reviews,

*****

THE DUPLEX PLANET #75 ($1.25 from David Greenberger, PO Box 1230, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866): David has been branching out recently, interviewing senior citizens around Schenectady as well as at the Duplex Nursing Home, where this zine started. Each issue consists of David asking provocative questions and then sitting back to record the answers from some of the zaniest, funniest, and crankiest people you'll ever run across. Charming voices from another age. Also features the poetry of Ernest Noyes Brookings.

*****

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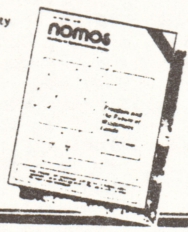

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Buffalo, NY 14223

EAT MY SHIT #1 ($1.50 from PO Box 12504, Raleigh, NC 27605): A zine with an anal fixation (any relation to MY WIFE?) that tries to combine this with political correctness, resulting in a strange combination, as one article puts it, of the scatalogical and eschatalogical. The highlight of this is an interview with Bob Bruyck, a UNC scientist who is investigating tree die-offs and says "acid rain" is too simplistic an answer. Well worth getting if you're not easily offended.

*****

EELSKIN COMIX #2 (25 cents from 4328 7th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98105): An attempt at collected cartoon humor, mostly from major publications, that falls rather flat (as well as probably violating lots of copyright laws), unless one is into crudeness, rudeness, and sheep. On the other hand, for a quarter, it's a cheap laugh.

*****

THE ELEVEN THIRTY-FOUR #1 (SASE from PO Box 1296, Stillwater, OK 74074): New pfanzine from Collegeland, USA. The editor is either a flaming conservative, a subversive in disguise, or a master of sarcasm & misdirection, take your pick. Lots of reviews of local hardcore shows and sundry clippings from the national press. ("Born with a tail & he's doing fine.") Also check out the interview with smut-rockers Scrotal Cyst.

*****

ELITIST ENNUI May 1986 (SASE from Alex McKale, 2010 Maple, Evanston, IL 60201): EE is theoretically a sfanzine, but I find it to be some of the best bathroom reading around (that's a positive comment; I like to read in the bathroom). Every month Alex regales his readers with little bits of news from the strange world we live in -- adoptable cows, the bad effects of TV, the saga of CLassic Coke, Falwell and AIDS, and much much more. Sort of like the supermarket tabloids without the stupidity.

*****

END #18 (£1 from 11 Godwin St., London N4, ENGLAND): Journal of the European Nuclear Disarmament, this one is mostly concerned with the intricacies of European politics, as perhaps it should be. As this particular issue is a year old, the major articles concentrate on the furor over the US attempting to gain European support for the SDI program. I don't know which issues are currently occupying the END's time, but I'm sure they're still agitating in some way or other.

*****

EQUAL TIME #104 ($1 (?) from 711 W. Lake St., #504, Minneapolis, MN 55408): It looks like this tabloid "for gay men and lesbians" is intended to be distributed free, so I'm just guessing at a per-mail price that should get you a copy or two. The coverage is divided about evenly between "News" and "Arts", with the usual admixture of ads, professional and personal. The news concerns mainly AIDS and safe sex; the arts section concentrates on local events and artists.

*****

EVA #1 ($3 from K. Handel, 2215-R Market St. #142, San Francisco, CA 94114): Subtitled "The Magazine of Real Erotica", this one intends to focus in on erotica produced by and for amateurs, particularly the fast-growing field of videotapes. This first issue has some video reviews, poetry, random thoughts on erotica, a listing of print resources, and quite explicitly sexual pictures, both fantastic and realistic. They're looking for contributions of all sorts, written, photographic, video or whatever, for upcoming issues. Also has a classified section for tape traders and others.

*****

EXISTENTIAL RAGE 4 ($1 from Steve, PO Box 3092, Orange, CA 92665): Let me get the criticism out of the way first: I am beginning to think that vegetarianism rots the mind, as every article proselytizing for it is full of obvious nonsense. Steve, for example, advocates following nature's order when talking of milk-drinking (no other animal does it after infancy), and yet also gives a recipe for vegetarian dogfood. That aside, this is a very good little anti-authoritarian zine, with an excellent sense of the moral in all of us (and the idea, which I support, that revolution is best served by living one's life in accordance with one's principles). Nice poetry and a load of fanzine reviews complement the longer pieces on cities and abortion.

*****

FIFTH ESTATE Summer 1986 ($5/yr from PO Box 02548, Detroit, MI 48202): This anti-authoritarian

tabloid is still going strong 20 years later, and its stories cover a wide range. Leading off this issue are articles on the Haymarket Centennial and opposition to plans for a garbage-burning plant in Detroit. Also of particular interest are their reprints from the golden age of student dissent (ca. Kent State) and the ever-argumentative letter column.

*****

THE FIRST HOUR Vol. 2 #2 ($15/yr from 206 Sarles Lane, Pleasantville, NY 10570): Outgrowth of a Christian retreat in Sendai, Japan, and co-edited in both the US and Japan, FH is the organ of the Patristic Society, established to "Study, Practice, Promote, and Defend the Tradition, Teachings and Faith of the Early Fathers of the Church". There are a few conservative Christian commentaries on current affairs, but the bulk of the articles are either philosophical or historical. In this issue, for example, both In Vitro Fertility techniques and the trip of the apostle Thomas to India are discussed, along with a great deal else. I think they'll send a sample on request.

*****

FISHIE TALES #1 (50 cents from Vampyress, 95 Ferris Pl., Ossining, NY 10562): A new handwritten pfanzine featuring mostly little bits of literary effort rather than music news or views, though there are some cassette recommendations. Includes a piece on the meaning of anarchy and some 80's satire on 60's rock.

*****

FLIPSIDE #49 ($1.50 from PO Box 363, Whittier, CA 90608): This premiere pfanzine has been mutating a bit lately, and while that's sure to piss people off, I think they're doing the right thing. Moving away from the generic pfanzine look, FLIPSIDE has reduced the fanzine reviews to a mere database printout, stopped trying to review every record that comes out, and added some feature articles instead. Band interviews remain (Screamin' Sirens, The Brigade) but now there's a lot more. Joe Henderson writes about punk photography techniques, YUP presents a photo-essay on Canadian bands, there are rundowns on the German and LA scenes, and more. The pen pals column (40 words for a buck) is expanding, and the letter section is as strong as ever. Sure, there's still plenty of music in FLIPSIDE, but the coverage is gaining much-needed depth as well.

*****

FLOATING UNIVERSITY #2 (25¢ & SASE from Donna Galloway, c/o C.T. Goldstein, 10837 Washington Blvd., Culver CIty, CA 90230): This is a new apa, starting up to exchange educational information among the readers and writers. No "real" courses here, although Donna does list addresses for a couple of interesting correspondence courses. This issue has some basic Spanish, shorthand, and accounting, plus dozens of requests from people who want to learn particular things and are looking for teachers, or people with things to teach wondering if there are interested students. This one might grow fast, so investigate now. Proposed topics include chess, NLP and jade plants.

*****

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY May 1986 (75¢ from PO Box 500, Arcadia, CA 91006-0500): FOCUS ON ANTI-PORNOGRAPHY might be a better title for this. It seems like every other page has instructions on how to pressure your local retailer or a congratulatory message from some member of congress on fighting the good fight. Other than that, the content seems to be mildly evangelical Christianity and articles on how to be a good mother -- nothing in this issue is directed at the male parent, who must be too busy working to read this traditional slick, while Mom stays home and worries about those predatory divorcees at the office propositioning her man.

*****

FOOTPRINTS ($10/6 months from PO Box 45057, Boise, ID 83711-5057): A conservative newsletter which focuses in on the creeping immorality in our society. This issue is a bit strange; it consists largely of excerpts, with commentary, from the Idaho laws governing "Sex Crimes" including adultery, incest, fornication, lewd cohabitation and "the infamous crime against nature" (the rulings indicate that this covers everything you can think of). The commentary is strongly in favor of legislating morality in this fashion.

*****

FORCED EXPOSURE #10 ($2.50 from PO Box 1611, Waltham, MA 02254): How do you review a 114-page reduced-print pfanzine? How do you even read the damned thing? Inadequately, I'm sure. The big cover story here is the 15-page interview with Lydia Lunch, strange person and performer. Then there's Tesco Vee's Meatment tour diary, the Worst of '85 poll results, and reviews of every record and tape to come out since time began (which, I think, was sometime in late 1976). FE is awesome and distinctive, with an editorial personality like a punch in the mouth and the lowdown on all of the sex and drugs that those conservatives are sure the punk rockers are promoting. Look, if you like punk, you need this. Get it.

*****

FORWARD EVER June 1986 (PO Box 361, Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120): This may be the last issue, as they have run out of money -- they're looking for about $200 to keep publishing. FE is published by a couple of Boston groups formed in the wake of the Grenada invasion (remember Grenada?), and prints a lot of news about the country and the region that doesn't make it into the mainstream press. Their coverage of the trial of former Grenadan leaders has been excellent, and their clippings of news from other countries in the region very informative. I hope they manage to scrape up some resources. What we need is a Foundation for the Continuation of Small Magazines. Any rich people on my mailing list?

*****

FOR YOUR SKULL #12 (50¢ & a stamp from 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): This is sort of a punk rock comics zine. Sort of. Actually, it's filled with whatever Carrie and Sarah have found to fill pages, and in this issue, besides comics, that's a mini-interview with Siouxsie & the Banshees, a society column clipping, a list of cool stuff, and an interview with Sarah. There are lots of cool drawings here too with strange faces and guitars and whatnot. They're looking for more artists who can draw odd stuff to publish.

*****

FOURTH WORLD (Send stamps to Dr. Bugg, PO Box 77326, Atlanta, GA 30357): This "Journal of Social Nihilism for the Hell of it" is marred chiefly by islands of too-small print awash in a sea of huge margins. But it's still worth getting out the old pocket magnifier to read Bugg's thoughts on the origins of Wicca and appreciation of Phil Dick, as well as Spider Rainbow's flawed but much-needed analysis of the anarchist-lunatic fringe so well represented in FF. I didn't think all that much of the rundown on the Ruger-14, but to each his own, and it certainly didn't detract from the thoughtful writing in the rest of this issue.

*****

FRAGMENTS Vol. XXIII #3-4 ($10/yr from 146 Jericho Turnpike, Floral Park, NY 11001): Although supposedly a quarterly, this slick little zine comes out as time and finances permit; a one-year sub gets you 4 issues, no matter how long it may take. The editors are, I believe, Georgists (as in Henry), and their orientation is one of staunch individualism. This issue is devoted to reminiscences on the lives and works of the Morley Brothers, Christopher, Frank and Felix.

*****

THE FREEMAN June 1986 (On Request from FEE, Irvington-on-Hudson, NY 10533): The Foundation for Economic Education are perhaps the leading cheerleaders for the free market in the country today. They put out the attractive, slick-covered FREEMAN and make it available to anyone who cares enough to write to them and ask for it. Articles in this issue discuss the fallacy of comparable worth, the necessity of privatizing the roads, and the reasons that government regulation don't and can't work. Interesting stuff, but it all starts to sound the same after a while.

*****

FUNHOUSE UPDATE #2 ($1 from Lang Thompson, 2111 University Blvd. E, #33, Tuscaloosa, AL 35404): That buck willl get you the original and both supplements, or it's 44¢ postage for this one alone. Lang does very short reviews of zines and record places, with a lot more coverage of the screwball audio noise world than I have. The deluxe FUNHOUSE is due out this fall, with extended listings, and I'll probably endorse it even though he is competing with me.

*****

F.U.T.U.R.E. Vol. 3 #9 ($1.75 from PO Box 228, Butte, ND 58723): A New Age journal that skips around from topic to topic like some knowledge-crazed butterfly, this one always contains a few good things and occasionally a bit of nonsense. Leading this issue is an interesting

article on the coming wave of food irradiation, and closing it are staffer Barry Dossenko's thoughts on "Prophecy and the Socialist Power Elite". In between are ideas on love and healing, along with their extensive calendar of international events.

*****

FUZBRAINS #11 ($1 from PO Box 2436, Worcester, MA 01613): The sixties will never die, at least not if the staff of this pfanzine have their way. The very layout of FUZBRAINS reverberates with psychedelia, and it can be at times difficult to read, but it's worth struggling through the distorted letters. This issue has their top 50 garage band releases of the year, as well as show reports and interviews with Boys From Nowhere and Crosstie Walkers. The FUZBRAINS crew has hooked up with Sweden's Gunnar Johansson, and this issue contains as an insert Gunnar's catalog SUPER STUFF #3.

*****

GALACTIC CROSSROADS #1 ($2 from Niles Hokkanaen, PO Box 2352, Clarksburg, WV 26301): "An exploration of music and mandomania", the editor claims that this is not aimed exclusively at mandolin players, but they are certainly its primary influence. The big pieces in this issue are interviews with Peter Rowan and Dave McLaughlin, which focus in on highly-technical musical details: tunings, stringing, where to mike the mandolin, that sort of thing. Also sheet music and record & book reviews.

*****

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS Vol. 13 #37 ($29/yr from 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111): Professional-looking typeset weekly for Boston's gay community (gee, that should have been obvious). In addition to the usual ads and news (local/national/international), there are relatively strong articles here, including a rather explicit one on proper condom use. There are also hard-hitting editorials, indicating that the collective that publishes GCN is a pretty viable one. This April Fools edition also includes a lot of good-natured humor poking fun at the gay lifestyle.

*****

GAZE March 1986 ($12/yr from PO Box 152, Minneapolis, MN 55440): Pretty impressive little newsprint magazine for the gay & lesbian community. They seem very interested in a number of things, including the controversial proposal in Minnesota to trace the contacts of AIDS victims, local and party politics, innovative AIDS therapy using non-FDA drugs, and of course the gay culture in the Twin Cities area. They also print photos and stories.

*****

GENRE PLAT #5 (The Usual or $1.25 from Allyn Cadogan, 368 2nd Ave., San Francisco, CA 94118): This is the Fall 1983 issue, though my informant swears it just came out. You might want to write before sending money. Anyhow, GP is a sfanzine printed on the traditional twiltone, held together with the traditional sort of features, with the exception of Jim Benford's "The Day After April Fool's Day". Jim discusses a space enthusiasts conference at which he asked annoying questions like "What happens if a Skyhook breaks?" Kudos also to the US Army for producing a grenade launcher manual for the illiterate.

*****

THE GENTLE ANARCHIST Spring 1986 ($2/yr CASH/STAMPS from PO Box 1313, Lawrence, KS 66044): In keeping with the title, there is a pervasive and relaxing ecological influence in this anarchist tabloid, though they don't approach the extremes of the various Green parties. There's an interesting statement on technology, neither gung-ho or Luddite, leading off this issue, as well as continued speculation -- some in the very lively letter column -- on the possibility of founding an anarchist community in the Midwest.

*****

GL VOICE #137 ($15/yr from 1517 LaSalle #E, Minneapolis, MN 55403): A tabloid for the gay and lesbian community in the Twin Cities. Maybe it's just a coincidence, but over 50% of this issue seems to relate to AIDS in some way -- funding, research, patients. Also features local ads and events, as well as national news and book reviews.

*****

GLITCH NEWS Vol. II #6 (SASE (?) from GLitch Records, PO Box 4429, Austin, TX 78765-4429): Austin-area music news. This issue there is a report on the New Music Seminar, a tour diary from Doctor's Mob, and a listing of area recording studios. There's also some comics and a "Guitar of the month" feature.

*****

GOING UNDER #10 (50¢ from Scott Sendra, 4746 Northgate, Ann Arbor, MI 48103): Critical thinking isn't dead, not even in teenagers, not even in Middle America. GU is a journal by and for politically and socially thoughtful high schoolers, and they're right up there with the cream of the left press as far as I'm concerned. This issue has excellent articles on shopping malls (a major concern of the GU staff, apparently) and time, as well as introductory pieces on Nicaragua and Khadafy, and music reviews. The graphic look of GU is really improving lately as well.

*****

GONE! May/June '86 (SASE from Denver Tucson, 2491 Ellsworth St., #21, Berkeley, CA 94704): This is a travel zine with a difference, the difference being that it is put out by real people and not whatever androids write the stuff you read on jet planes while trying not to think about crashing. Denver invites everyone on vacation to send in recollections, incidents, postcards or whatever; exchange thoughts with your neighbors in the zine world. This time there are letters from Nepal, Houston, and New Orleans; thoughts from more exotic locales are desired.

*****

GOVERNMENT COMPUTER NEWS Vol. 5 #13 (FREE from 1620 Elton Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20903): For "computer users throughout the federal government", this 100+ page tabloid is surprisingly interesting. To qualify for a free subscription you have to work for the government, so lie when you write for a sample issue. Topics covered include computer crime, the use of computers in government (including controversial applications like matching databases), the latest hardware and software, government buying procedures and more. Lots of ads from industry leaders and their shills.

*****

GRAB A NICKEL Vol. VIII #1 ($1 (?) from Barbara Smith, Box 2158, Alderson-Braoddus College, Philippi, WV 26416): This tabloid is put out by the Barbour County Writers' Workshop, and has poetry, drawings and photos in addition to short stories. I liked the short stories themselves; for the most part, they describe local scenes in local voices -- even George Hewitt's science-fictional "Elija" has a backcountry feel. Being a city boy, I don't know how authentic this is, but it sounded authentic to me. Light pleasant stuff, concentrating on the most part on the relationships between people.

*****

GREAT EXPECTATIONS Jan-March 1986 ($1.95 from 11050 Santa Monica Blvd., #105, Los Angeles, CA 90025): This is the sort of thing that people who don't subscribe to FACTSHEET FIVE get stuck reading. GREAT EXPECTATIONS (or, as they refer to themselves, G/E -- sounds like a new perversion) are a chain of singles clubs in the west, and this slick mag is full of advice for those who spend their waking hours in expensive pursuit of the opposite sex. Advice columns, clothing tips, fancy meal ideas, and a big schedule of retreats and activites for singles. People with no money need not apply.

*****

GREEN ANARCHIST No. 9 (£6/10 issues from 19 Magdalen Rd., Oxford, OX41RP ENGLAND): Well-assembled zine dealing with anarchy from an ecological point of view. As well as more traditional analyses of authoritarianism there is an emphasis on "economic imperialism", whereby the few keep the many under their thumb and destroy the environment whilst they're about it. Also contains an excellent assortment of worldwide anarchist news (does anyone know more about the Nimbin settlements in Australia?) and some nice propaganda/graphics efforts.

*****

GREEN BIBLIOGRAPHY (SASE from COCC, PO Box 30208, Kansas City, MO 64112): Right now this is a single sheet, though the Committees of Correspondence Clearinghouse, who put the thing out, are looking for more sources. Divided up into Green Books, other books, US periodicals, and non-US periodicals.

*****

GREEN CALENDAR June 1986 ($10/yr from Earth Island Institute, 13 Columbus Ave., San Francisco, CA 94111): There's not to much to say about this one. It's a calendar listing meetings, events,

protest actions and other dates of interest to members of the Green Movement in the SF Bay Area.

*****

GREY ZONE #6 ($5/yr from Back Room Anarchist Center, 3200 Chicago Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55408): The Back Roomers are still feeling around for a consensus and talking about anarchy (as are we all), but with their own space to hang out in, they're doing pretty well. Their journal this time focuses in on May Day past and present, together with some thoughts on Big Mountain and on building a new society.

*****

GRUE #2 ($3.50 from Peggy Nadramia, PO Box 370, Times Square Stn., New York, NY 10108): A very strong new entry into the horror magazine biz. GRUE bills itself as a "less-gentle alternative to the bigger, slicker publications", and some of the stories here are indeed shockers, with some new twists. Jonathan Floyd's "Stephen King is Haunting Me" is a nice mixing of story and reality, Elaine Perry's "Handyman" is horro/SF with an amusing twist at the end, and Janet Fox's "Pumpkin-Eater" vies with Sean Costello's "Frigidaire" for good old-fashioned scare value. There's a lot of good stuff in this 80 pages of stories and poetry.

*****

GUEST CHECK COMIX #1 ($3.50 from Dolphin-Moon Press, PO Box 22262, Baltimore, MD 21203): This full-size 36-pager has a definitely surrealistic feel, anchored by Margot's "Directorix" strip, featuring a pair of people who live in a not-very-stable environment. There are other names I recognize here, including Brad Foster, Steve Willis, Ace Backwords and John E, all of whom have had work reviewed in FF in the past. Bill Fitts' self-referential playing around also deserves special mention. A nice selection of good work.

*****

HANDICAP NEWS June 1986 ($18.50/yr from Phyllis Burns, 272 N. 11th Ct., Brighton, CO 80601): A monthly news-digest of items on all sorts of handicaps and related topics, ranging from vaccine lawsuits to Graham-Rudman budget cuts to the March of Dimes. About half of HN is now devoted to articles, stories and poems from the handicapped; this issue features an interesting viewpoint on growing up blind from Lois Wenczl.

*****

HATE LITERATURE

In response to popular demand I am presenting another rundown of zines which contain hate for some minority group as part of their reason for existence. I wish to emphasize that I do not trade with nor endorse these zines.

CHALCEDON REPORT #249 (FREE from PO Box 158, Vallecito, CA 95251): This is for the most part straightforward Christian millenial stuff. It makes this list thanks to an incredibly hate-ridden anti-homosexual rights article written by California state senator H.L. Richardson.

INFO (SASE from PO Box 7333, Naples, FL 33941): This single-sheeter contains the most outrageous bit of Holocaust revisionism I've yet to see. They claim that the Jews set out to exterminate the Germans, starting in 1933, and so the Germans were only acting in self-defense.

NATIONAL VANGUARD #106 ($2.50 from PO Box 2264, Arlington, VA 22202): Pure and simple racism, with the white aryans being the best and all others, most notably Jews and blacks, being beneath notice, except to repeat the same old slurs about them. Fellas, if the international Jewish conspiracy was as powerful as you fantasize it to be, you'd all be dead.

NEW BEGINNINGS Vol. 16 #3 (Contribution from 20 Fairway Hills, Waynesville, NC 28786): Almost but not quite too nutty to be in this box. Strange evangelical Christian newsletter with veiled references to how this is actually 1997 instead of 1986, marred by the constant string of anti-semitic quotes through the ages.

NEWS OF THE NEW WORLD Vol. 12 #8 ($12/yr from FOCP, PO Box 830, Honeydew 2040, SOUTH AFRICA): This little pamphlet recounts a lot of the problems of the world, ranging from the misbehaviour of pro athletes to repressive laws in Canada, and then blames them all on, you guessed it, the Black influence.

NEW SOLIDARITY 4/11/86 ($1 from Campaigner Publications, Inc., PO Box 17726, Washington, DC 20041-0726): This is Lyndon LaRouche's paper. LaRouche, of course, hates everybody, most notably the drug-running Brits and the Commie allies, including the Democratic Party. The funniest and most subtle of the lot.

OVERCOMERS' INK #2 (SASE from PO Box 2137, Trego, WI 54888): These Identity Christians believe that Joe McCarthy got a bad rap; that the Nazi Party and the KKK are run by Jews to keep the JDL alive; and that history is more properly spelled HIS-story. They say everyone, even your barber, is likely to be a "Communist Antichrist".

THE THUNDERBOLT #310 ($7/6 months from PO Box 1211, Marietta, GA 30061): Billing itself variously as "America's Oldest Patriot's Newspaper" and "News Suppressed by the Daily Press", T-Bolt's big story at the moment is that the Holocaust never happened and that the KGB and Israel are staging show trials to keep the myth alive.

THE TORCH ($10/12 issues from PO Box 373, Harrison, AR 72601): "The National Voice of Christian Identity!" preaches hatred for blacks and the extermination of homosexuals, among other cheery things.

*****

THE HEATHEN SCIENCE MONITOR ($6/yr from PO Box 3181, Traffic Stn., Minneapolis, MN 55403): The editor of the HSM, Shirley Youxjeste, is the one responsible (as far as I know) for thinking up the "War Game", succesor to the popular Jerry Falwell Game. ALong with that, this little gem contains bizarre religion stories, some notes about VD in areas where US troops are stationed, and an acceptable sodium level.

*****

HERE & NOW #2 (£2.50/yr from G.P.P., Box 2, c/o 340 West Princes St., Glasgow, G4 9HF, UNITED KINGDOM): A theoretical political journal that originates somewhere on the left. I'm not sure just where -- it could be socialist, or anarchist, or Marxist. WHatever it is, the articles are devoted to the ills of current capitalist society, dissecting them in depth without particularly proposing solutions. Topics in this issue include the rise of computerization, public housing, and Cardan's socialism. NB: This is the Summer '85 issue, and I'm not sure they are still publishing. Write first before sending money.

*****

HIMALAYAN NEWS July/August 1986 (On Request from RR1, Box 400, Honesdale, PA 18431): HN is the outreach tabloid of the Himalayan Institute, a retreat which combines age-old techniques imparted by Swami Rama with modern American medical research. They give courses and seminars on holistic healing, hatha yoga, vegetarian cookery and similar New Age stuff; this tabloid serves as an advertisement and basic introduction to their thought.

*****

HI-TECH TERROR 13 (50¢ (?) from Tim Ferrante, PO Box 41, Keyport, NJ 07735): This issue is the last (for now) edited by Craig Ledbetter -- Tim is taking over starting with #14. HTT is another journal for fans of the low-budget horror flick and its cousins, but it has a difference: it concentrates exclusively on things available on videotape. As a result, you might be able to actually see some of these turkeys if you wanted to. Reviews in this issue include Satan's Blade, Night of the Demon, City of the Walking Dead, and Erotikill.

*****

HLI REPORTS Vol. 4 #4 ($25/yr from 418 C. St., NE, Washington, DC 20002): This is the newsletter of Human Life International, one of the big anti-abortion groups. Reportage consists of horrified tales of what the abortionists are doing, an analysis of voting in the Senate, and photos of HLI people fearlessly trying to debate the Evildoers from Planned Parenthood. They do not appear able to distinguish between abortion and birth control, or care to.

*****

HOLIER THAN THOU #24 (The Usual or $5 (once) from Marty Cantor, 11565 Archwood St., N. Hollywood, CA 91606-1703): HTT is changing again, this time becoming a bit smaller and more informal but no less putrid and disgusting (Cartoon caption: "Preserve wildlife - pickle a squirrel!"). There are plenty of silly articles from well-known fen (including Skel and Harry Warner and Mike Glyer and Milt Stevens), and the letter column is changing to appear chattier. If you're intrigued by fine fannish minds, fannish history, and fannish

putridity, you should become a part of the HTT team.

*****

HOMESTEADERS NEWS #52 ($2.50 from Sherrie & Norm Lee, Naples, NY 14512): The big news this issue is that Sherrie & Norm, having developed methods to grow all their own vegetables year round in the frozen north, are now pulling up stakes and moving to Arizona. (Incidentally, this means there is a fully-functional homestead for sale in Western New York). There they will tackle the problems of desert gardening and, I hope, continue publishing HN, with its wealth of information about growing crops, sprouting, solar energy, greenhouses, home medical care and education, and much more.

*****

THE HONEYWELL PROJECT CIRCULATOR March-April 1986 ($6/yr from 1519 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404): "The Honeywell Project believes that existing multi-national corporations are a primary cause of war, oppression, and the pollution of our earth. We focus our energies upon Honeywell, Inc., because it is a leading example of such an insitution in our community." Using nonviolence, the HP people are trying to convert Honeywell to socially useful ends, and their newsletter spends some time talking about their plans amongst apparently unrelated articles about Central America.

*****

HUMAN EVENTS Vol. XLVI #17 (75¢ from 422 First St., SE, Washington, DC 20003): "The National Conservative Weekly" is this tabloid's eminently fair self-description. There are quickie summaries of important national news, then a bunch of feature articles on Enemies of Humanity: The Sandanista government in Nicaragua, Moammar Khadafy in Libya, and of course PENTHOUSE magazine in 7-11 stores. There are no surprises here, and I find it hard to imagine that they're doing much more than preaching to the converted with their hard-line attitudes.

*****

HUMANIST CENTURY May-June 1986 ($15/2 yrs from PO Box 84116, San Diego, CA 92138): Humanists are folks who believe that "we know the world by reason rather than by faith or revelation". As such they tend to have two concerns: reasoning about the world to find the right way to live, and debunking past superstitions. There is some of each here, with Lawrence Hyman writing about the politics of Humanism and a column on the truths behind Bible history. There are also a lot of one-paragraph tributes to past humanists, in a calendar of birthdays.

*****

IDIOSYNCRACIES #1 (SASE (?) from Joel Patenaude, 220 Lake St., Mt. Horeb, WI 53572): A short zine of "personal literary works", or, in othe words, a place for Joel to bare his soul where his various relatives can't intrude. This introductory issue contains some heartfelt poetry, some thoughts about "I don't like relatives", and the beginning of a serial, about a boy who is scared to death of dreaming.

*****

IDOMO XX (The Usual from Chuck Connor, c/o Sildan House, Chediston Road, Wissett, Near Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 ONF, ENGLAND): A sfanzine that might object to being so narrowly pigeonholed, seeing as Chuck is also interested in new music, poetry, and anything else that crosses his path. The heart of IDOMO may be the reviews (mostly fanzines, some music), as they allow Chuck to go off into stream-of-consciousness ranting about whatever is on his mind. The lettercolumn also has a nice feel. The rest of IDOMO is articles to enrage and entertain -- this issue reprints Bob Black's "Feminism as Fascism" rant. A counterexample for those who think SF fandom is composed entirely of boring old farts.

*****

INDUSTRIAL WORKER #1476 (25¢ from IWW, 3435 N. Sheffield Ave., Chicago, IL 60657): 80 years after its founding, the Industrial Workers of the World are still trying to organize all of us into "one big union". This special May Day edition is a mix of history of all the rotten things that have happened to organized labor over the years and current events, mainly updates on various strikes. It's sort of interesting that almost all of the news concerns locals of unions other than the IWW.

*****

INSIDE JOKE #46 ($1 from Elayne Wechsler, PO Box 1609, Madison Sq. Stn., New York, NY 10159): The "newsletter of comedy and creativity" is fast approaching its 50th issue, which is sort of mind-boggling when you stop to think about it. I think of IJ as both a creator and reviewer of popular culture, with some of the writers talking about current movies and TV ads while others slave away to write alternatives to them. There are a lot of good folks writing for IJ, including Anni Ackner, Rodny Dioxin, Roldo and Ho Chi Zen, and they create some very funny stuff, with an emphasis on strange and unexpected alternatives. Check it out for a few laughs.

*****

INSIGHT April 1986 ($1.50 for intro packet from Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship, 3653 Colfax Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55409): This appears to be a looseknit group in the Twin Cities for people interested in the various New Age sorts of things going on there. Most of their newsletter is a calendar of upcoming events in the area, though there is a hilarious page of titles parodying New Age works thrown in for comic relief.

*****

INSTAURATION Vol. 11 #6 ($3.75 from Howard Allen Enterprises, PO Box 76, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920): Edited by Wilmot Robertson, author of THE DISPOSSESSED MAJORITY (see FF18), this one chronicles the changes in our society, which amount to its decline and fall if you agree with the editorial viewpoint. The basic problem, according to the writers here, is that the Majority is being pushed out by a ragtag assortment of minorities who stubbornly refuse to melt in the melting pot. They back this up with a large assortment of statistics and news stories. Uncomfortable reading for one brought up on liberal ideas, this is ultimately thoughtful rather than hate-filled.

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INSTEAD OF A MAGAZINE #39 ($1.50 from PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226): This is theoretically the "work" issue, but as usual the IOAM folks don't let the theme act as a straightjacket. The work articles are here, to be sure (including a great analysis of Job Slavery by Mike Ziesing), but so is a lot else. There are a couple bits on the Haymarket, both historical and relating to the recent conference, some poetry, a batch of prisoner activism, and much more. I particularly enjoyed Vernon Frazer's "I Was A Teenage Anarchist", a nostalgic look back at the nonconformity he lived through in high school and Paul Bilzi's "An Impassioned Speech to the Attendees of Haymarket '86", in which he advises passion rather than philosophy to strengthen the anarchist movement. IOAM remains one of the most freewheeling, consistently interesting anarchist journals.

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INTENSE SNOT #1 (50¢ (?) from Chris Licciardi, 38513 12th E., Palmdale, CA 93550): Of this pfanzine the editors say "It's not the greatest but in the last couple of months we've sent off for shitloads of zines and none of them are much better than ours." Ain't it the truth. Anyways, IS offers an entertaining multi-colored handwritten look, and thoughts about the state of punk in the Palmdale area (poor). Very amusing story about the comeuppance of a stagediver.

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INTERNATIONAL MUSICIAN April 1986 ($15/yr from 1501 Broadway, New York, NY 10036): "Official Journal of the American federation of Musicians of the United States & Canada", this one is aimed at union members, who tend not to be on what FF readers would recognize as the cutting edge. (The most radical group mentioned in this issue is the Hooters). Contains a mix of union business and industry gossip, along with lots of ads and guidelines on auditioning for symphony orchestras.

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IPPL NEWSLETTER Vol. 13 #1 ($10/yr from PO Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484): IPPL is the International Primate Protection League. This issue is not representative of their journal, since it is a special tribute to Dian Fossey, but it's the only copy I've seen. Dian, of course, was the zoologist who spent years studying the few remaining mountain gorillas in Rwanda, only to be slain by poachers herself. There are some of Dian's writings here, as well as rememberances and tributes from various other groups and individuals.

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IT'S ABOUT TIME ($24/yr from CHRI, PO Box 3043, Spencer, IA 51301): That stands for Chronology History Research Institute. Their interest is the dating of the Bible, and they hope by investigating God's astronomical clocks to make Biblical dating more exact. They produce some very nice calendars showing, among other things, Hebrew and Christian dates and the number of days elapsed since the creation.

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IT'S ONLY A MOVIE #6 ($1 from Pam Smith, 54 W. Randolph St. #606-E2, Chicago, IL 60601): Only it's not, not anymore. Now it's a movie, or a video, or a book, or a comic or even a wind-up sushi. Such are the things that interest Pam, co-editor Mike Flores, and the members of the Psychotronic Film Society. This Chicago group sponsors film screenings and other events, and in between they put out this newsletter with reviews and thoughts about all sorts of sleazy bits of our culture.This time: A preview of ALIENS (sequel to ALIEN) and thoughts on the furor over Rambo.

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JAVA V (60¢ from Ann Wood, 801 N. Eighth St., Columbia, MO 65201): "A vehicle through which unrecognized but quality visual and written art work could be made available", Java consists pretty much entirely of visual work, unless you count the captions to such comics as Luna Ticks "The Young and the Restless" or Dan Ross' "Nazi Punks From Hell" as written. Alternating with the comics are bizarre pen and ink works including Joe Steinman's disturbing proto-language "Translation of Art".

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JEREMIAH Vol. 1 #6 ($2.50 from EMCE, PO Box T, Crugers, NY 10521): Subtitled "I'm Mad as Hell", this newsletter is one man's usually-disgusted look at how our society is behaving today. This issue tackles the question of the media's influence, and, though I douibt he knows it, Jeremiah's views bear some relation to the Situationists' discussion of the society of the spectacle. He muses over how, by sitting at home, we become tacitly involved in weighty matters that are decided by others, and while not proposing a solution, makes it easy to see the problem with his eyes.

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JERSEY BEAT #26 ($1 from 418 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087): This time around this pfanzine consists almost entirely of record and tape reviews, with an emphasis on local material but including some national groups. The major reportage otherwise is of the Second Annual Jersey Noise Festival, a two-day extravaganza featuring all sorts of bizarre bands. Jersey tends towards hardcore and mod, with little in between; the result is a strange but interesting mix, as one can hear on the JB Compilation tapes.

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JET LAG #66 ($1 from 8419 Halls Ferry Rd., St. Louis, MO 63147-1806): You want to talk about diversity in a pfanzine? Try this on for size: Ravi Shankar, Trouble Fun, Pandoras, Naked Raygun, Plan 9 and Beat Farmers. All of those and more are featured in this JL, the St. Louis pfanzine that comes out like clockwork every month. This mid-summer issue is a bit thinner than most, but it still features a dozen or so live reviews, interviews with a few folks like Greg Ginn of Black Flag, and record reviews including The Old Fart talking about the blues.

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JURISDICTION JOURNAL AND SOVEREIGN REVIEW Vol. VI #30 ($3 from Kaye L. Jensen, PO Box 299, Provo, UT 84603): A Constitutionalist publication with a lot of networking. This includes a state-by-state listing of group meetings, newspaper stories, and addresses of "Honoured Family of a Patriot in Prison". Also features law articles, mostly aiming to prove that the Income Tax is nonsense for one reason or another, but with some advice on fighting in court. (One guy who claimed a jury trial for a parking ticket allegedly got it dismissed immediately).

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K.P. INC. #3 (SASE (?) from 3457 Fremont Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55412): Quickie two-pager handwritten pfanzine. This issue discusses a live performance by Al Green, followed by an Al Green discography and reviews of shows by Ted Hawkins and John Cougar Mellencamp.

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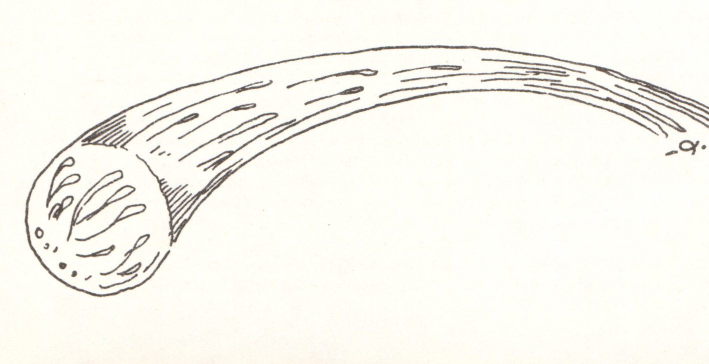

THE LETTER EXCHANGE #9 ($3.50 from Stepehn Sikora, PO Box 6218, ALbany, CA 94706): LEX is for people who like to write letters. The meat of each issue is in the listings of people desiring correspondence, each with a differnt bent. One wants to discuss comic strips, another steamboats, a third collecting photographs. Some people write letters under fictitious identities, for those of you who want mail from Mars or the Victorian age. Anyone can place a listing for $5, and I know from personal experience that they're a sure-fire way to get more correspondents than one can possibly keep up with. LEX now has its own letter column, with writers writing in about writing.

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LIBERTARIAN ZINES

While the libertarian press is not as healthy as it was a few years ago, it's still out there. Here's what I know about it:

THE CONNECTION #136 ($2 from Erwin S. Strauss, 4271 Duke St. #D-10, Alexandria, VA 22304): Formerly the Libertarian Connection, the libbie overtones of this apa are still strong enough to include it in this section. The print is less reduced than it used to be, now running in most cases the same size as that in FF. There were 92 pages of sometimes acrimonious but usually interesting discussion in the latest issue, on everything from religion to war to homemade nukes. Newcomers are not always treated kindly, but it is possible to subscribe without contributing.

THE FAMILIST Vol. 5 #4 (On request from 5324 Sun Valley Dr., El Paso, TX 79924): Voice of the Familist Movement, this one comes from a group of Children's Rights advocates who feel that the family and similar kinship structures are more right and natural than the state and similar government structures. The major part of this issue is devoted to an article, reprinted from The Rockford Institute, on the groundswell of child abuse hysteria in this country, a major battle-ground between the family and the state.

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE NEW FREEMAN (1909 Beacon St., Brookline, MA 02146): This is a new tax-exempt organization that it going to try to bring the root of Ayn Rand's philosophy to the common man in the country: namely, that it's OK to care about yourself and that altruism is not just stupid but wrong. They're trying to raise $35,000 to spread the message, and hope to evaluate their success by December. I predict that they will accomplish precisely nothing. They'll probably send you more information for the asking.

FREE VERMONT April 1986 ($10/yr from PO Box 37, Burlington, VT 05402): Monthly tabloid of the Vermont Libertarian Party. As a state LP, they're often concerned with getting people elected, but in off years they talk about issues. This time there are articles on privatization of kindergartens and the space program, overproduction of milk in this country, and a debate over the Vermont ERA.

INFORMATION PAPER #1-32 (On Request from CNS, PO Box 7075, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677): The Central News Service is a service of the Free Territory of Ely-Chatelaine, which has been mentioned in these pages in the past. These Information Papers are free to anyone who promises to make copies and spread them around; except for the ones promoting household monarchy they are pretty standard stuff. A few sample titles: What if We Had a Voluntary Society?, The Custom of Law or the Law of Whim, Revolutions and Constitutions, and Drugs Sex and Society.

JAG Vol. 24 #6 (FREE from R.S. Jaggard, MD, 10 E. Charles, Oelwein, IA 50662): Financed entirely by donations, this series of broadsides is the product of a man who passionately believes in equal justice and treatment for all. Since he's doing most of the paying, Jag talks of what he wishes, and in this issue announces his candidacy for any office whatsoever that the people want to elect him to. He outlines his platform, plus the reasons that he won't be elected, and uses this as a springboard to discuss the sorts of people that do get elected.

LGLC NEWSLETTER #14 ($15/yr from 1800 Market St. #210, San Francisco, CA 94102): Newsletter of Libertarians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns. Of late their issues have been devoted almost entirely to AIDS, and the government's attempts to keep safe drugs from gaining FDA approval in this country for one reason or another. It may not be conspiracy, but it's certainly not good government.

LIVING FREE #34 ($1.50 from Jim Stumm, Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): Jim is sort of the archivist of the vonu movement, and he has a great number of rare pamphlets and newsletters that he makes available for copying costs. But he's not mired in the past; LF is a (for the most part) reader-written journal that discusses living on the land or in other cheap ways, do it yourself stuff, recycling, government evasion and related topics.

NEW LIBERTARIAN NOTES & CALENDAR 16.2 ($1.50 from 1515 W. MacArthur Blvd. #19, Costa Mesa, CA 92626): This quickie newszine appears in the gaps between issues of the much-better NEW LIBERTARIAN. This time they report on Robert LeFevre's death and present an updated calendar of movement events.

NOMOS May/June 1986 ($3 from 9857 S. Damen Ave. Chicago, IL 60643): Over the past several years NOMOS has grown, gotten slicker and, oddly enough, more anarchist. This issue features, along with libertarian articles on John Calvin and localizing an economy, ones on Josiah Warren and the Haymarket martyrs. Good writing is the watchword at NOMOS, and although they tend to be hardcore libertarians, preaching is for the most part absent. Outreach with a chance of succeeding.

THE PRAGMATIST Vol. 3 #6 ($1 from PO Box 392, Forest Grove, PA 18922): In the great Utilitarian tradition, the Pragmatist attempts to explain why liberty is a good and even profitable idea. Hard analysis is used to show the effects (or lack thereof) of government boondoggles; this issue a statistical study showing no positive effect from mandatory auto inspection programs is quoted. Other topics in this issue include immigration, bombing Libya, and the possibility of denationalizing defense.

RANDOM WRITINGS #7 ($1 cash, $2 check/MO from Jim Stumm, Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): Just what the title says, but because Jim is doing most of the writing it has a distinctly libertarian flavor. This is his stuff that doesn't fit the topical boundaries of LIVING FREE. One interesting discussion lately (Jim invites letters from his readers) has been on the possibility of taking over or founding a libertarian town somewhere. Also thoughts on levels of government oppression, socialism, and the relations to freedom.

REASON August 1986 ($2 from PO Box 27977, San Diego, CA 92128): The only large-scale slick libertarian magazine left, I believe. REASON is trying to bring libertarian ideas to the newsstand in an attractive, non-confrontational format in the hopes that the horse will then drink. This issue contains financial hints for the 90's and an interview with Russell Means. Watered-down to a certain extent, at least they're trying.

SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER March 1986 ($5/yr from John Harllee, Rt. 2 Box 52A, Florence, SC 29501): This digest of anti-governmental news items has shrunk considerably of late due to John's failing eyesight. He hasn't yet announced whether publication will continue, but he hasn't cancelled it either. Despite his handicaps, he has produced a very interesting article on the state of health of past US presidents in this issue.

STRIDER COMMENTARY May 1986 ($1 from Lorne Strider, PO Box 554, Laytonville, CA 95454): A monthly of news stories followed by libertarian commentary. In this issue Lorne squares off against the policy ideas of Mario Cuomo, the search and seizure of porno films, and suggests a law barring Democrats, Republicans and Lyndon LaRouche from running for office. The June '86 issue was a special tribute to Robert LeFevre.

THE THOUGHT June 1986 ($8/yr from Philosophers Guild, PO Box 3092, Orange, CA 92665): A journal that is at last starting to develop a few writers other than editor Ron Tobin. Each issue of THOUGHT examines in a few pages some basic philosophical and political concepts, concluding with a recommendation for right-thinking libertarian belief. A strong undercurrent of prisoners' rights is also present.

VIRGINIA LIBERTY BULLETIN Vol. 2 #4 ($10/yr from LPVA, PO Box 28263, Richmond, VA 23228): The price of this one also gets you the tabloid VIRGINIA LIBERTY, which spends its space discussing general libertarian issue. The BULLETIN is more oriented towards the nuts and bolts of the state Libertarian party. It contains news on who is running for what, party activists, and a calendar of events.

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LIGHT ON THE PATH March 1986 ($1 from Brotherhood of the White Temple, PO Box 966, Castle Rock, CO 80104): Gobbledegook from an oddball little New Age group. They're inspired by a certain Dr. M. Doreal, who has a long article on healing in this issue. He reveals, among much else, exactly what the cause of cancer is, and which exercise to do for a good shit. Following hard on his heals is Virginia Culvey, writing of "The Higher Self" and displaying a complete lack of knowledge of the workings of reflex (No, Virginia, normal people do not think about it when they remove their hand from a hot stove). Good for a few laughs, but I somehow doubt that enlightenment can come of it.

*****

LIMITED POTENTIAL #8 ($1.50 from Mike Safreed, PO Box 32011, Dayton, OH 45432): A fairly standard pfanzine from what appears to be a cultural wasteland. There's one unusual feature here: Mike explains how to set up and use your own silkscreening equipment for T-shirts (and, incidentally, he has T-shirts for sale). Also live & record reviews, and Molly's Sex Advice Column.

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LIVE FROM THE STAGGER CAFE #2 ($1 from Luke McGuff, PO Box 3680, Minneapolis, MN 55403): Long-time FF readers may remember some other McGuff zines, but it looks like this sfanzine may well last for a while. Luke rants and raves about SF and the present and discusses a party that he abandoned to read Camus. Bob Black reviews NEUTRON GUN while Elayne Wechsler overreacts to another subway ad that exploits women. Looking for contributors, Luke is bound to confuse and subvert us for some time to come.

*****

LIVELY ARTS Vol. 1 #5 ($1 (?) from PO Box 4906, San Diego, CA 92104): Nice little pfanzine printed on multiple colors of paper to give it a very distinctive look. This ish features editor Kenzo's recollections of his London vacation, a long interview with Dave Vanian of The Damned, shorter takes from the Pandoras and The Meatmen, plus tape and record reviews and a few odds and ends.

*****

LLEWELLYN'S NEW TIMES #862 ($1 from PO Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164): This is actually more book catalog than zine, despite the fact that there are half a dozen or so quickie articles scattered in its 72 pages. Most of the rest is taken up with ads for the various books published by Llewellyn, which deal with all manner of occult stuff: I Ching, Voodoo, Magick, Astrology, you name it. There are also ads from other places doing things like computerized horoscopes and the like.

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THE LOG CABIN #83 ($1 from Louisa Poulin, HC-38, Box 1178, Winchester, VA 22601): TLC is published by Mensa's Back-to-the-land Special Interest Group, or BTTL SIG for short. Functioning somewhat like an apa, each issue is composed of bits and pieces of letters from members. The majority of them are already living on farms and homesteads; the rest want to move there, or just enjoy dreaming about it. Lots of hints on how to survive a simpler life. You don't have to be a Mensa member to get involved, just someone interested in going back to the land.

*****

LOVESEAT #2 ($1 (?) from 211-53rd, Des Moines, IA 50312): Pfanzine with lots of pictures and a strange narrow layout flawed by print that's too damned small to read comfortably. Best thing in this issue is an interview with a punk who went along on the abortive "Great Peace March"; also interviews with Kindred Spirits and Anti Scrunti Faction as well as reviews and photos.

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LOWLIFE 8 ($1.50 from glen Thrasher, 1095 Blue Ridge Ave. #2, Atlanta, GA 30306): This is part pfanzine, centered around Atlanta's "Destroy All Music" radio program, and part mail-art network. There's a hard core of music here, with interviews of DQE, Becky's Army, Caroliner Rainbow Bochelism Pregnancy and other obscure bands, but there's also a page of poetry, Luna Ticks' "Young and the Frustrated" comic strip (and Molli Worthington's "Toast Boy", a letter from Chris Wood, alleged Nazi punk now in jail on a murder rap, Video rental reviews, and random words and cut-ups. Fun stuff if you don't mind an entire culture dedicated to noise and confusion.

*****

MARIJUANA Vol. 1 #2 ($6.66/yr from TLC International, PO Box 261, Staten Island, NY

10302): Newsletter of "Marijuana-The Social Club", which boasts 168 members and says it's not a front for any law enforcement agency. This issue contains a couple of articles on decriminalization, some overflow from TLC's other publication AMERICAN FORUM, and not much else. They hold "socials" in Staten Island, but what that means is not spelled out.

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THE MARIJUANA REPORT May 1986 ($1 (?) from OMI, PO Box 8698, Portland, OR 97207): Published by the Oregon Marijuana Initiative (which would make personal use possession legal) people, this tabloid is generally concerned with getting the law passed. They've also printed a few articles on drug testing in this issue and one on the economic value of a hemp crop. Also, they're looking for volunteers to help with campaign and office tasks; write for more details.

*****

THE MEMORY HOLE #12 ($2 from PO Box 94, Long Beach, CA 90801-0094): "The Libertarian Revisionist History Amateur Press Association" seems to have settled down with a relatively constant slate of contributors, with Sam Konkin, Vic Koman and E. Scott Royce contributing free-wheeling and fascinating revisionist zines that really do examine the effects of the ruling class on the teachings of history. Unfortunately, with the continued presence of David McCalden and the IHR, there are also many pages on Holocaust revisionism in every issue, making this much harder to recommend.

*****

MENDOCINO COMMENTARY #280 ($15/yr from PO Box 1222, Ft. Bragg, CA 95437): A tabloid that bills itself as "participation press" for the Mendocino County area. Their main concern seems to be local politics, and they have pretty much the attitudes one would expect from a participative newspaper: peace, freedom, low (or no) growth, ecology, all that sort of thing. With an election coming up, most of this issue is concerned with questions of who to vote for, not whether to vote.

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MESSAGE POST #21 ($1 from PO Box 190, Philomath, OR 97370): From the folks at the Light Living Library (SASE for their list of useful reprints) comes this journal on "Portable Dwelling". With a rotating editorial staff and writers who actually live in the bush (tent, twipi, yurt, camper or whatever), each issue of MP contains useful and tested advice. Sample topics this time around include eating thistles, making hominy, 12-volt washers, light sticks and Gore-tex. In favor of appropriate tech rather than no tech, MP also features book reviews and a nice selection of listings of other resources.

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MESSING ABOUT IN BOATS Vol. 4 #1 ($15/yr from Boats, 29 Burley St., Wenham, MA 01984): This is aimed squarely at those who have fallen prey to the romance of being out on the water in something smaller than an ocean liner. In large part it consists of reminiscences and stories from various sailors and boatbuilders. There's a calendar of New England boating events in the back and a goodly selection of display and classified advertising.

*****

METAL MANIA #17 ($2 from Ron Quintana, 4340 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94114): This is a pfanzine for heavy metal fans, pure and simple. Somehow it seems appropriate that it should be in harsh black and white with plenty of dark, dark photos. This issue opens up with a "1986 in Review" metal retrospective on a year that isn't even over yet, and quickly evolves into a batch of interviews with the likes of Motorhead, Stormtroopers of Death, and Overkill, plus live show reviews.

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META-SCOOP Vol. 3 #5/6 ($10/yr from 1004 Live Oak #101, Arlington, TX 76012): Now under the auspices of the Foundation of Light and Metaphysical Education, MS continues to feature a wide variety of New Age spirituality. That's too narrow a classification, though, as it fails to take into account the Greenpeace stuff in the previous issue or the evaluation of daily life in Czechoslovakia by Czech rock musician Marek in this one. Overall, though, most of the stuff here is concerned with healing energies or ancient wisdom courses and so on. Non-denominational, MS is for those interested in exploring the underside of reality without many preconceptions.

MINICOMICS

Short and sweet comic books. The ability to put something of interest into eight pages is paramount here.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A TREE (50¢ from Michael Dowers, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): A tree takes to the page to tell us that being cut down and made into a minicomic is no great thrill. Mystic ecology 20 years later by D. Cidous.

BAD RELATIONSHIPS #2 (50¢ from Michael Dowers, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): Douglas O'Neill takes art deco pen in hand to depict two people in a ludicrous excuse for love. Seedy but realistic.

BOBO YOYO SEEKS THE TRUTH (50¢ from Michael Dowers, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): John E. tells a tale of a dip of uncertain parentage who attains bliss by pissing on a tree. John is capable of much better then this.

BUTT SERIOUSLY (50¢ from Michael Dowers, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): Dink Magee gives us a series of one-panel gags of dubious taste. A fair sample: dead smurfs, scratch n sniff armpits, flat-headed "Another Breakdancing Casualty".

CULT COMIX #2 (75¢ from John E., PO Box 8312, Wichita, KS 67208): Features Steve Willis on the evils of free will, Margot with a bit of dangerous eroticism, Bruce Duncan writing about leather, and a late recap of the Falwell game. Digest sized.

DOG SLOBBER #2 (75¢ from Michael Dowers, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): Unrelated single panels from Max Haynes. His art is intriguing, but this comic makes no sense at all.

EXQUISITE CORPSE COMIX #17 (50¢ from Michael Dowers, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): An eight-page anonymous psychedelic jam. One drawing spreads from page to page, mutating as it goes. A low-budget acid trip without the colors.

FLASH OF FRUSTRATION #1 ($1.50 from Luna Ticks, 424 S. 45, Philadelphia, PA 19104): Graphic tale of sex, violence, revenge and barbecues, done in a gloomy style. Luna draws nifty stuff, but the explicitness has gotten these strips banned from more than one fanzine, so now they're available straight from the artist. Recommended.

FUDGONG FUNNIES #5 (50¢ from J.P. Morgan, PO Box 78, Keansburg, NJ 07734): J.P. is about 90 degrees out of phase with the rest of the world, and his visual interpretation of phrases like "No shit, Sherlock" and "sleeping pills" goes a long way to prove this. Kliban without the stupid cats.

MATURITY (50¢ from Michael Dowers, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): Ronald Russell Roach manages to provide a plot, a moral, and fine artwork in this tale of cosmic playfulness and seriousness. Who would have dreamed of compressing gods into this format?

MUTANT MELODIES (50¢ from Michael Dowers, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): Strips from 3 artists dealing with the trials and tribulations of mutants, from the first Cro-Magnon to unusual critters with three eyes and no head.

NUKEMARE (50¢ from Michael Dowers, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): Ronald Russell Roach again with a tale -- or a series of vignettes -- on the future of nuclear energy. Well-drawn but the moralizing is a bit heavy. The futuristic snails are real cute.

OLD TALES (75¢ from Michael Dowers, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): A compendium of hackneyed comix plots and ad satires from the pen of Tom Christopher. I liked Capt. Wonder, a superhero who refused to abide by the Comics Code. Digest sized.

OUTSIDE IN (60¢ each from Michael Dowers, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): Each issue is made up of self-portraits by various comix artists, showing just how strange drawing talking dogs can make one's self-image. There are 21 of these minis around; you can get the whole set for $8.25.

PAW PRINTS #2 (50¢ from Michael Dowers, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): Bill Fitts gives us a chance meeting between two talking dogs. A cheap gag serves to finish the strip off.

PSYCHEDELIC XEXPERIENCE (50¢ from Michael Dowers, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): A bit of self-indulgent psychedelic noodling from Bob X. Cheap thrills for a moment or two.

THE RANDY MOORE PORTFOLIO ($1 from Earth Studio, Rte. 3, Box 133, Perryville, MO 63775): A series of new wavish light-and-shadow drawings that

look like they represent the artist's innermost nightmares. Signed and numbered limited edition.

SAND-PAPER COMIX (50¢ from Michael Dowers, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): Apparently all of these quickies come from Finnish artists. I was relatively unmoved until Death, the old grim reaper showed up, and then quite amused by what happened.

SPOOKINESS (35¢ & a stamp from Carah Prods., 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): A dark and gloomy tour through the things that spook the artists. A real downer.

STUPID BOY #4 (25¢ from Not Available Comics, PO Box 5803, Raleigh, NC 27650): Matt Feazell has made a career out of a series of stick-figure minis where he carries comix minimalism to the extreme. In this ish, SB goes to visit the old West and make his usual assortment of dumb mistakes.

XENOPHOBIC KNIVES (50¢ from Michael Dowers, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): A Steve Willis number that changes plot and form in every single panel. Includes a secret subliminal message.

*On comics from Michael Dowers (who runs Starhead Comics) add 22¢ postage for 1-3 comix and 39¢ for 4 or more.

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MINI EXAMINER Vol. 8 #8 ($8/12 issues from Irene Stephenson, PO Box 3893-ME, Chatsworth, CA 91313-3893): Formerly THE TRUTH, this newsletter is devoted to "biorhythm character and compatability analysis". Irene uses biorhythm methods to examine the lives and personalities of people in the media each issue, working from their birthdays and from published information. It comes off as a combination of mysticism and DIY psychology. This issue is from July and includes a biorhythm analysis of the Statue of Liberty, surely an extension not thought of by many in the field. She offers various analyses by mail -- send for a sample copy to get her prices.

*****

MINNESOTA WOMEN'S PRESS Vol. 1 #24 ($20/yr from 2395 University Ave. #215, St. Paul, MN 55114): This biweekly tabloid covers all aspects of women's activities and interests in the area. There's a calendar of events, a selection of local and state news, thoughtful letters and editorials, and what appears to be a special section on womens' spirituality in this issue.

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MOCKreviewZ #3 (37¢ from Ken Sutherland, 104 Woodgate Ct., Sterling, VA 22170-1630): This is where Ken proves that, despite his involvement in the new and experimental poetry scenes, he can still write sentences that makes sense. MR is precisely what one might think, reviews of the stuff (mostly poetry, but occasionally mail art or stories) that inhabits Ken's mail, plus reportage on various other events in the world that tickle his fancy. A good lead-in for finding poetry mags.

*****

MODERN TIMES May 1986 (SASE from 1 Bronxville Rd. Apt. 6-C, Bronxville, NY 10708): This "conservative newsletter" says of itself: "Modern Times is dedicated to the proposition that the right wing is tough enough to bear sharp criticism". And, refreshingly, they provide it. Rather than yet another analysis of policy, MT provides a look at the culture of the new conservative movement, with articles this issue on the radical tactics espoused by today's campus conservatives and the rhetoric obscuring the science in the SDI debate.

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MORMON CURIOUSITY ($1 (?) from Mac, 2400 19th St. NE #203, Washington, DC 20009): Confusing pfanzine with all sorts of dark and hard to comprehend graphics. The main feature in this issue is an interview with Psychodrama, an arty band currently facing charges in DC for defecating on stage, fucking chickens, and otherwise giving an "indecent performance". Also live reviews and an interview with Debt of Nature.

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MOSKITOZUMOJ #1 (SASE + a stamp from Herb Ashe, 1614 Postoffice St. #1, Galveston, TX 77550): A large single-sheeter with a split personality. On the left-hand side, Herb runs down a list of "Rags" which he has found useful in his exploration of Green, Anarchist and Peacenik ideas (including FF, hooray!). On the right hand side, Herb talks about... well, I'm not really sure, because it's written in Esperanto. Now, I know Esperanto is in fact an interesting example of a decentralized networking tool, but I still can't read it. If you can, you'll probably enjoy this one.

*****

MURDER CAN BE FUN #2 (50¢ from Johnny Marr, PO Box 640111, San Francisco, CA 94109): Johnny is interested in all of the rotten things the world does to people, and he'll be happy to share them with you. Centerpiece this issue is the story of Sylvia Likens, tortured to death in Indianapolis. There's a lot of lighter stuff, too, like the address of the Karen Carpenter fan club and a literary comparison of anorexia exploitation novels. Future issues to include stuff on "Manson. Speck. Gacy. Fish. Mary Bell." and more.

*****

MUTUAL AID ALTERNATIVES #2 (Donation from Mutual Aid Collective, c/o Social Action Center, 221 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12206): I think this is still available but it's a year or so old so it would be best to write first. MAA is a zine for social, rather than individualistic, anarchists, with cooperation being one of the main themes. Along with a couple of articles on cooperation (including a report on how a workers' collective really functions) they run some poetry and a debate on the age-old question of whether or not to vote. A friendly and happy effort.

*****

NAMBLA BULLETIN May 1986 ($2 from PO Box 174, Midtown Stn., New York, NY 10018): In case you've been living in a cave, that stands for North American Man/Boy Love Association, a group attempting to legitimize in the eyes of society consensual homosexual relationships involving minors. The BULLETIN is an interesting mix; there is current news (NY Gay Rights Ordinance), history (Walt Whitman and his boyfriends) fiction, graphics and more. Of particular use to some FF readers will be their column on police entrapment operations, listing names and addresses.

*****

THE NATIONAL EMBROIDERER Winter 1986 (Donation from L.A.W., 1600 Woolsey St., Berkeley, CA 94703): The "irregular periodical" of Ladies Against Women. LAW are either, depending on your point of view, the last bastion of American Ladylikeness, or a satirical street theater group. Either way, this newsletter reports on their tours, pickets and demonstrations, with plenty of their slogans in evidence, like "Mommies, mommies don't be commies, stay at home and fold pajamies". They also campaigning for the rights of sperm, teach how to cook your own Twinkies, and generally provide useful advice.

*****

NEIGHBORHOOD CARETAKER ($25/yr from 3038 Fall Creek Pkwy. N., Indianapolis, IN 46205): "A journal of neighborhood health sciences", this one publishes abstracts of articles in various other holistic health publications. At least, I think that's what they do -- they don't make it very clear. There seems to be some way for subscribers to get the full reports. This issue also has a full article, on training new employees to function in nursing homes.

*****

NEOLOGY Vol. 11 #2 ($1 or The Usual from ESFACAS, PO Box 4071, Edmonton, ALTA T6E 4S8, CANADA): The sfanzine of the Edmonton SF and Comic Art Society is starting to recover from the departure of long-time editor Georges Giguere, but it's not quite up to its former standard yet. The best part of this issue was the reportage on Dreamquests, a series of live-action, outdoor D&D type adventures for the truly dedicated to roleplaying. Also fanzine and comic reviews, letters, and more on Russian SF in this issue.

*****

NEW ANARCHIST REVIEW #6 (9"x6" SASE from A Distribution (NY), 3125 E. 84th St. #1D, New York, NY 10028): Aimed at anarchists who do not live in the big cities with enlightened bookshops, this pamphlet lists various books and pamphlets available by mail. New items are reviewed at some length and ordering instructions are given. This edition comes from A Distribution in London, but they say the New York office will be able to supply copies in the future.

*****

THE NEW CATALYST Vol. 1 #3 ($18/yr ($12 in Canada) from PO Box 99, Lillooet, BC V0K 1V0, CANADA): "A Bimonthly regional review", this is an attractive tabloid with, apparently, each issue devoted to a special topic. The previous issue was on Bioregionalism; this one treats Nonviolence. Articles discuss sucessful uses of nonviolence to

oppose a logging project, the theory and practice of consensus, nonviolent health care, and so on. There's also an interview with anarchist writer George Woodcock, a letters section, and news on peace and ecology movements in British Columbia.

*****

A NEW IRON COLUMN No. VIII ($6/4 issues from Creative Anarchists Networks, 1728 W. Ball Rd. #4, Anaheim, CA 92804): ANIC has gotten much cleaner and easier to read over the last year, and print quality no longer distracts from the contents. Those contents deal in the most part with opposition, to the state, to corporations, to jails, to the Libertarian Party, to the Cold War, and so on. I'd like to see a little more in favor of something, anything, and less reprints, but on the whole this is a valuable and interesting anarchist digest. Excellent coverage of Native American prisoners.

*****

NEW OPTIONS #26 ($25/yr from PO Box 19324, Washington, DC 20036): A monthly review of the Green movement, the peace movement, the disarmament movement and similar alternatives. This issue leads off with some thoughts on "Alternative Defense", a middle path between disarmament and the status quo. There are also some thoughts from professional political consultants on the way that a Green party could succeed in the US, reports on activist groups, and a number of movement book reviews.

*****

NEW PAGES ($3 from PO Box 438, Grand Blanc, MI 48439): A thrice-yearly tabloid, NP does a lot of the same things as FACTSHEET FIVE: namely, it spends most of its space reviewing small press magazines and books. If we can distinguish for the moment between alternative and underground literature, then they are doing the alternative and I am doing the underground, by which I mean that the items in NP are for the most part slicker and more expensive than those in FF. Their reviews are informative, and their coverage hardly overlaps mine at all; this looks like a useful source for many of my readers.

*****

NEW PATHWAYS Vol. 1 #2 ($3 from MGA Services, PO Box 863994, Plano, TX 75086-3994): "The Magazine of Experimental Science Fiction" is how this laser-typeset zine bills itself. All I can say is that it's trying, but it hasn't yet succeeded. The best of the stories here, Misha Chocholak's "The Wishing Well" is more horror than SF; the hardest SF is by editor Michael Adkisson, who seems to lack the self-discipline to stick to a plot line. There is promise here for the future, and that's something, but for now the technology of magazine production is ahead of the content.

*****

NEW RAGE (SASE to PO Box 11492, Eugene, OR 97440): It looks like New Rage is the successor to Anti-Authoritarians Anonymous, featuring some of the same folks but a more down-to-earth appeal (that is, the words on these posters are more straightforward). They make available a variety of subversive posters, suitable for telephone poles everywhere. I particularly like their hard-hitting, tell it like it is recruiting ad for the CIA.

*****

NEW UNIONIST 108 (30¢ from 621 W. Lake St. #210, Minneapolis, MN 55408): The New Union party believes, like the Deleonists and the IWW, that the wave of the future is socialism, and the way to get there is to organize the workers into one big union. This 4-page tabloid is an attempt to get this message across to the rank and file, with writings about where they want to go and how to get there.

*****

NIRVANA #3 (39¢ postage from Kat 22, PO Box 2184, Castro Valley, CA 94546): A zine primarily concerned with animal rights but printing whatever Kat finds interesting, such as the continuing Lithuanian travelog from Bindi. There are articles on pound seizure, pig raising and hunting this time, with extensive references given for those who want to do more research, as well as a list of companies doing animal testing and some vegetarian recipes.

*****

THE NODE Vol. 1 #4 ($2 (?) from 543 Frederick St., San Francisco, CA 94117): "Computers and the Future", boldly proclaims the masthead of this tabloid, published by the Performing Arts Social Society Inc. More interested in the possible shape of future society than hardware and software per se, the writers here discuss utopian dreams as well as product reviews. There's some tie-in with the Kerista people and a bulletin board as well as other publications from the same people available -- write them for more details.

*****

THE NOISE #51 ($8/yr from 74 Jamaica St., JP, Boston, MA 02130): "Rock Around Boston" is what T. Max promises, and he and his staff deliver. This is a strictly local pfanzine, and they have all the fingers of both hands on the pulse of the Boston scene -- indeed, Rita & Lolita's gossip column threatens to take over more pages every issue. Besides the rundown on who's playing with whom, there are plenty of nice photos (T being a flash wizard himself) and the expected reviews. Straw Dogs, Capture the Flag and the lovable GG Allin are all featured in this issue, as well as a number of (so-far) more obscure Beantown groups.

*****

NO NAME PRESS #1 (25¢ & 39¢ postage from Paul Sommerstein, 611 Lawrence AAve., Westfield, NJ 07090): "Look, I'm just some kid in high school. What else should I do with my life but start a fanzine? I don't do anything creative or worthwhile in school and when I'm older I'll get all complacent 'n shit and worry about the rent!" There you have the editorial stance of this energetic new pfanzine dedicated to letting Paul chatter in between record and show reviews. The "Be Hardkorre" behavior guide was pretty funny even to a poseur like me.

*****

NON-STOP BANTER #7 ($1 from Debbie Novak, 16700 S. 94th Ave., Orland Park, IL 604622): For some reason I don't think of Chicago as having much of a new music scene, but NSB goes a long way to prove that I'm wrong. There's a lot of innovation going on in this cleanly-produced pfanzine; besides the obligatory interviews (Camper Van Beethoven, Effigies, Out of Order) there is also a spread devoted to two Chicago record producers. The record review columns ("Vacant Staircase" for well-known releases and "Familiarity Breeds..." for the offbeat stuff) are very well done, with three reviewers doing each record; this spectrum of opinions is a lot more informative than the single-sided thoughts found in most pubs.

*****

NORTHWEST NUCLEAR XCHANGE Vol. 4 #4 (Donation from Good Shepherd Center, 4649 Sunnyside Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103): A small tabloid that presents news about all of the various peace groups and activities in the Pacific Northwest. Despite the title, they are interested in Central American issues as well as the "White Train" nuclear transport and Trident missiles.

*****

NOT BORED #9 ($1.50 from Bill Brown, English grad office, 302 Clemens Hall, SUNYAB, NY 14260): Bill Brown is apparently trying to keep alive the Situationist critique of society by participating in it. Rather than try to apply the rather difficult and diffuse Sit ideas to society as a whole, he focuses in on popular culture, right down to the point of offering a detailed reading of a single song by the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Also contains a paranoid letter from George Dahl and a review of T.J. Clarks's Sit-influenced book on Manet.

*****

NOTES Vol. 1 #4 (The Usual from Sam Helm, 495 W. 186th St., #5E, New York, NY 10033): This is Sam's personal sfanzine (or perzine, as it would be called in the SF fans' world), and it is livened up by as fine a bunch of columnists as you'll find outside of FACTSHEET FIVE. Andrea Chalfin-Antonoff writes about books, Jeff Grimshaw tackles sports, and Anni Ackner does a television column. It's all tied together by Sam's own comments on matters mystical and mundane and an awesomely interesting letter column featuring a host of Golden APA refugees.

*****

NOTES FROM OBLIVION #11 (The Usual from Jay Harber, 626 Paddock Ln., Libertyville, IL 60048): Jay would particularly like to trade for SF or SubGenial zines. This is his own personal ranting and raving on the world, television, and the state of his eyes (terrible; write big when you send for a copy). This particular issue is pretty heavy but he promises to lighten up in the future; in spite of medical problems and other plagues from the real world he's seeking inspiration for lunacy and levity. Could develop into a critique of our medical

system or a pie in the face, it all depends on you.
*****

NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND #24 (SASE from Allen Sawyer, PO Box 12272, Gainesville, FL 32604): Allen is an anarchist, and the layout of this single-sheeter confirms it. A series of confusing screeds, with wide lines and not enough white space, wherein Allen talks about South Africa, the Gainesville city council, meat-eating, collectivized sex and other things. The point? I'm not sure there is one, other than he wants to spread his ideas. If only I could tell what they were.

*****

NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND #3 ($1.50 from Michael McInnis, PO Box 278, E. Cambridge, MA 02141): Not at all the same as above, this is a little art and literature zine that's trying to encourage people working on artistic alternatives. They print just about any creative work -- poetry, short stories, drawings, a collage, whatever. Lenght ranges from 2 lines to epic four-page poetry. NFTU hopes to be a forum for new artists to gain exposure in before moving on to bigger and better things.
*****

NOTMEMO 45 (75¢ from Vinnie Bartilucci, 45 Newburgh St., Elmont, NY 11003): SubGenial ravings from an up-and-coming Slackmeister, propietor of the Finest-Kind Bargain Basement Salvation House of Worship and Pro Shop. This issue features a transcriptions of Dr. Vinnie preaching to a rapt SubG crowd, a bit on modern "culture" by the elusive Kip M. Ghesin, and the tragic story of a Normals attack on Doctors For "Bob".
*****

NOVOID #2 (The Usual or $1 from Colin Hinz, 1118 College Dr., Saskatoon, SASK S7N OW2 CANADA): A new entry in the sfanzine field from a fanatical supporter of the Myles' House in '89 Worldcon bid. Besides the Myles' stuff (including some serious explanation of the thinking behind the bid), there are fanzine reviews and a batch of Canadian conreports.
*****

NOVUS #31 ($1.50 from PO Box 152, Honolulu, HI 96810): The only pfanzine to feature Ferdie & Imelda Marcos on the cover this month, editor Burt Lum and his crew write about whatever music they can hear in Hawaii, and that's quite a selection. This month, for example, we have an interview with Kimberley Rew, guitarist for The Waves, an article about one of Hawaii's independent music producers (i.e., his label records traditional Hawaiian music), concert review of saxophonist Stan Getz, and a ton of record and tape reviews, from mainstream to punk. Sort of reminiscent of Jet Lag, NOVUS similarly has something for every taste.
*****

NOW! #5 ($2/4 issues from PO Box 436, New Philadelphia, OH 44663): This little newsprint number covers the arts in the Greater Ohio Valley. NOW! grew out of hte New Artists' Workshop, a group concerned with promoting artists in the area. This issue has a very 60's look, which obviously isn't accidental as the centerfold is a sort of homage to the music, fashions and press of that era. Watch also for the dynamite hero-worship of the Residents, who recently played a gig in the area. With their coverage of fashion and visual arts as well as music, NOW! has some of the verve of a pfanzine without all of the limitations.
*****

NO WORRIES #6 ($1.50 from PO Box 13201, Gainesville, FL 32604): Back again and better than ever is this nifty little pfanzine. No one else has the honesty to title the record review column "Mostly Shit" or to blow off long show reviews because it's been months since the bands played. NW also features longer and more thoughtful interviews than you'll find most places; this time there are 4 pages of Die Kreuzen and 6 pages of Scared of Stares. Also a listing of the local bands, bars, clubs, record stores and pubs, which is a neat idea other zines should consider.
*****

OBITUARIES (50¢ from Bloody Mess, 5523 Montello Dr., Peoria, IL 61614): The latest issue of Bloody's name-changing pfanzine. I don't know how he does it, but hot on the heels of the Wendy O. interview there's a Jello Biafra interview in this issue. Also much news of Bloody's own band, Hate, which has been thrown off stage in Peoria and is due to tour with GG Allin, no doubt resulting in getting thrown off stage in other cities as well.
*****

THE OFFENSE NEWSLETTER #66 (50¢ (?) from PO Box 12614, Columbus, OH 43212): It's good to see TKA back in the pages of FF, and let that be a lesson to the rest of you editors -- the PO can screw up badly enough to make all concerned think the other guy cut off the trade! Anyhow, ON is its own inimitable self still, featuring as much bickering as pfanzines three times its size and as much intelligent comment as ones even bigger than that. Outrageous letter column, zine and record reviews, and 1985 readers' poll comments fill this issue.
*****

OFF-THE-CUFF...76 (50¢ from PO Box 129, Topton, NC 28781): An occasional letter written by Christian patriot Nord Davis. Nord takes four pages when he feels it is necessary to spread some news or get something off his chest, and mails them out to as many people as he is able. This issue is a reaction to the US attack on Libya, and it discusses Nord's findings that a Soviet general at the UN is actually in charge of US combat troops worldwide. This is all wrapped up in a blanket of speculation on the fall of Babylon, which as a good Christian, he hopes to see happen damned soon.
*****

OPTION I2 ($2.50 from PO Box 491034, Los Angeles, CA 90049): In its quest to be regarded as something other than a clone of OP, OPTION has dropped the alphabetic organization idea almost entirely: the "I GALLERY" in this issue is only 3 pages long. Freed from the tyranny of the alphabet, OPTION now prints articles on all sorts of independent music: the Fall, Robyn Hitchcock, Robert Fripp and Niles Hokkanen, among many others, appear in this issue. Also a steady diet of indie reviews plus various columns including a fascinating one on the technology of electronic music.
*****

THE ORWELLIAN TIMES Vol. 1 #4 ($1 (?) from Winston Smith, PO Box 22431, St. Louis, MO 63126): "All it would take to enslave the world is to convince the people that paper is money. All it would take to keep them enslaved is to keep them convinced that they are free. It would help to keep them fearful of being enslaved by a country we feed who cannot whip TINY Afghanistan in SEVEN years!". Buttressed by quotes from the Bible, this newsletter does its best to spread the doctrine of Monetary Realism discovered by the late Merrill Jenkins.
*****

OUTER SHELL Vol. 10 (SASE from Roy Harper, PO Box 7053, St. Petersburg, FL 33734): Roy proves that even nightclub DJs are intelligent enough to produce a great pfanzine. Only a single sheet, OS doesn't bother with reviews, but instead concentrates on various phenomena in the music industry or the world at large. This issue discusses some of the idiocies involved in the BILLBOARD/BMI/ASCAP domination of current tastes, as well as much else. Regular columns include Gary Pig Gold 's "Pigshit" and Kenneth Burke's "Continuing Saga of Dr. Iguana", with our own Shane Williams being an occasional drop-in representative of the punk set.
*****

OUTLET NO. XXXIII (£2.50 from T.H. Faull, 33 Aintree Crescent, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex, IG6 2HD ENGLAND): Just when I thought I had him pegged he goes and reviews a CUNTS album. Well, that isn't typical, as most of this huge zine is filled with reviews of somewhat older and more staid records. T.H. is obviously in love with rock; he discusses the British roots of rock in 1956, Surf music, current Fench releases, the Residents and more along with scattered zine and book reviews. Much material here on British and Continental music that you won't find in the American press, along with a respectable number of U.S. groups.
*****

OWN THE WHOLE WORLD #13 (90¢ & 66¢ postage from Bob Forward, 812 Stadelman, Akron, OH 44320): OTWW has been among the missing for a while, but Bob says this pfanzine is gonna be monthly now, fer shure. Let's hope so, because then he won't have to try to cram quite so many reviews into so small a space. Lots of strange noises reviewed in this issue, plus interviews with Children's Crusade, Naked Raygun & Honeymoon Killers, as well as some live Reisdents photos that didn't really turn out all that well. Bob's most interested in industrial music and that sort of thing but he reviews most anything.
*****

PAGAN & NEOPAGAN

Actually, I'm not sure what the division is between pagan and neo-pagan, but all of these zines definitely fit the bill. Maybe I should have titled this section "serious alternative religions"...nah, too long.

HARVEST Vol. 6 #6 ($10/yr from PO Box 228, S. Framingham, MA 01701): Friendly zine with very wide-ranging interests. This issue, for example, has articles on both Brujeria and Voodoo. The folks at HARVEST are also getting interested in pagan political activities, such as the Thomas Morton Alliance in New England, and are one of the best sources for information on such activities. Also a good place to look for zine listings and festival dates.

IRON MOUNTAIN Vol. 1 #4 ($5 from PO Box 227, Florence, CO 81226): The most scholarly of the pagan journals that I am aware of. This issue continues a debate over the origin of Gardnerian witchcraft, and features articles on the ancient holy prostitutes and modern magical religions in Brazil. There are also a number of books reviewed, including a feminist I Ching and RUNESTONE's Asatru Anthology.

NAP TIME Vol. 1 #3 (Sample free from PO Box 622, Farmington, ME 04938): Published by the National Alliance of Pantheists. This particular issue has more in common with liberal political zines than with pagan ones; there are articles on Big Mountain, Lyndon LaRouche and the New Right. The closest pantheist tie-in is in an article about a behaviour modification technique called co-counseling.

PAGAN PARENTS' LEAGUE NEWSLETTER #5 (SASE from Belinda, PO Box 423-P, Bay Shore, NY 11706): An occasional journal for the (obviously) pagan parent. Reviews books for the little ones, gives ideas on rituals suitable for including the kids. The members of PPL are active and interested, and most of the newsletter is written by the readers.

THE ROWAN TREE ($2.50 to PO Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN 55408): RT is a "Mystery School", and they publish both THE UNICORN and THE LITTLEST UNICORN (the latter for pagan children). The reason I mention them both together is that they are advertising an informational package containing samples of both newsletters plus other information for the single price. Their specialty seems to be herbalism, and they offer a mail-order herbal service as well as plenty of poetry and graphics and short articles.

THE RUNESTONE #56 ($9/yr from Asatru Free Assembly, PO Box 1754, Breckenridge, TX 76024): A journal for those who believe in the pantheon of the Old Norse. The Runestone is a nice mix of articles about traditional Asatru and reportage on current doings of various kindred groups. They've recently started raising money to buy some land for the group, and are doing quite well at it.

THUNDERBOW #101 (60¢ from Church of Seven Arrows, 4385 Hoyt St. #201, Wheatridge, CO 80033): The CSA is sort of a fusion neopagan group, taking elements from many traditions to form their own faith (they have a series of books out that explain the basics of their system). Thunderbow carries a variety of columns (I Ching, Runes, Astrology) as well as bits and pieces of news of interest to earth worshippers and a schedule of festivals and the like.

*****

THE PAN-AMERICAN INDIAN ASSOCIATION NEWS #16 ($1 from PO Box 244, Nocatee, FL 33864): This tabloid is published by a group that bills themselves as "a Home-Coming Movement of persons seeking to revive their Native American heritage, or to conserve our environment and natural resources." Most of it is filled with chatty news about various Native American folks, with a couple of articles, notably one on Big Mountain. Membership is extra, and is open to all regardless of heritage.

*****

PANEGYRIC (SASE from IO Pan, PO Box 29145, Philadelphia, PA 19127): This one starts off with a sort of anti-"Macrobot" (by which I think the author means society and all of its technoid trappings) manifesto that is very heavy going. Fortunately it soon breaks into a debate by letter where some of the author's ideas are made a bit clearer. Joseph Kerrick is calling for a rather radical experiment in alternative living; he apparently wants nothing less than a return to the jungle and our natural heritage. To this end he condemns unhesitatingly all technology, although he admits that he can work with the new agers towards a world where the technology is less in control. What he's after, though, is what the MOVE people tried in Phillie; I hope he doesn't get fried to a crisp for his pains.

*****

PANIC Vol. 1 #1 ($2 from Axe St. Arena, 2778 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60647): The first issue of a new quarterly, apparently devoted to tearing our society down through the influence of art. This issue has a couple of articles focusing in on the relation between politics and art, including a fairly devastating review of one exhibition of political art. Also contains the submissions to the Haymarket '86 mail art show, a nice selection of confusing anti-authoritarian images.

*****

THE PEAK UN-OFFICIAL EXPO 86 SOUVENIR GUIDE (Donation from Don Monet, 1855 E. Georgia #103, Vancouver, BC V5L 2B5 CANADA): There's a world's fair going on right now in Vancouver, and it's tremendously unpopular with the residents -- probably because the promoters are costing the taxpayers a lot of money and poor people are dying as their hotel rooms are made open for tourists. This is a collection of anti-Expo graphics from various sources, free on the streets, worth at least half a buck by mail.

*****

PEOPLE'S WORLD Vol. 49 #12 ($10/6 months from 1819 Tenth St., Berkeley, CA 94710): "Voice of the Left for Over 40 Years" proclaims the masthead, and I guess I'll take their word for it. It's hard to say what these people are for -- except unions, any unions -- but they're against Reagan, apartheid, the old regime in the Phillipines, and homeless people being fingerprinted. A fairly standard liberal tabloid, as far as I can tell.

*****

PEPTALK Summer 1986 ($1 (?) from PO Box 3912, Eugene, OR 97403): This zine comes from Polyfidelitous Educational Productions, a group interested in promoting (naturally enough) polyfidelity. Polyfidelity is sort of a closed group marriage, as near as I can tell, and PEPTALK discusses forming a polyfide and keeping it running smoothly. One gets the impression that this comes from a small number of people trying to share the best things in their lives with others; maybe it will catch on as a lifestyle.

*****

PHALLOS June 1986 ($2 from St. Priapus Church, 583 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102): This phallic-worship church also runs a Gay Rescue Mission in San Francisco as well as a recorded Gospel message (415-431-8748). Lately times have been difficult for them as some nut has been throwing bricks and making threatening phone calls. Nonetheless, Rev. Don Jackson is continuing his ministry and welcomes any and all support. Next issue they promise to start publishing the secret Gospel of St. Mark, reportedly deleted from the Bible for being too explicit.

*****

PHILIP MORRIS MAGAZINE Spring 1986 (120 Park Ave., New York, NY 10017): A wonderfully sleazy corporate slick. PMM sort of resembles airline magazines, except for the constant references to how smoking isn't bad for you, the problems of smokers' rights, and so on. All of this is wrapped around articles on chili, dogsledding, and so on. It looks like they send out copies on request, not that I think you should try to make them waste their money sending you one or anything.

*****

PHOEBE Vol. 3 #3 (55¢ from James MacDougall, 511 Routes 5 & 20, Waterloo, NY 13165): Some people are fascinated with all the strange things in the world. Then there are others who can't resist talking about them. James is one of these souls, bubbling over with news to make your day -- like the university that's chosen a slug as their mascot. Or the possibility of tamper-proof packaging for whipped cream with nitrous oxide in it. Or the latest Chernobyl jokes. Most of PHOEBE is a collection of these little gems, culled from a variety of news sources. This issue also has a couple of major articles, one being a review of Tish's ORDER AND CHAOS, NOTHING AT ALL [see FF17], and the other a collection of "nominative organizations", clubs for Mikes or Bobs or Freds.

*****

PHONETIC SPELLING LABS (31960 SE Chin St.,

Boring, OR 97009): PSL is one of Gene Lehman's front organizations, I think. In any case the literature I received from them was all written by Gene, who is sort of a maerick educator. He thinks kids would learn better if they were challenged instead of disciplined, that sort of thing. If you want to know more, try sending him an SASE.

*****

PKDS NEWSLETTER #11 ($2 from PO Box 611, Glen Ellen, CA 95442): This one comes from the Philip K. Dick Society, and I suppose you can guess what it's about. I like Dick's fiction quite a bit myself, but I can't match the fanatical intensity of these people, who are apparently determined to read and analyze every word he ever wrote. Definitely not a simple-minded fan magazine, the writing here is incisive and analytical. This issue features some notes on the screenplay Dick wrote for UBIK, and the abortive attempts to film it, as well as a lot of news on current publishing projects. With Dick's popularity still growing this long after his death, it's a safe bet that this newsletter will be around for a while to come.

*****

POSTWAR ($1 from PO Box 6613, Fullerton, CA 92631): This anti-authoritarian project churns out a seemingly inexhaustible supply of graphics, pamphlets, zines, posters and stickers, all designed to get people to think about what their society is doing, or at least wake them up a bit. They come out of a sort of punk-rock perspective, but demonstrate a level of knowledge on the issues seldom found in mindless "Hate the system" songs. Their latest zine features a couple of hilarious graphics (I liked the one of Reagan mainlining nuclear missiles) and thoughts on South Africa, Star Wars, and more.

*****

PROGRESSION OF THE SAGE #2 (75¢ from 1007 Urban Ave., Durham, NC 27701): A pfanzine which talks about bands rather than with them, PS looks good so far but doesn't have a lot of content yet. They concentrate mostly on local bands, and this issue discusses Oblivious Sage, Primal Vision, and Vicious Diplomacy. Also includes a few emotional short stories and Fred Mills on the Cocteau Twins.

*****

PSYCHIC GUIDE Vol. 5 #1 ($2.95 from PO Box 701, Providence, RI 02901): The major purpose of this magazine seems to be to provide a modicum of articles to separate the advertisements. There's stuff here on astrology, the Tarot, and so on -- but there are more offers of miraculous holy medals than is devoted to any one topic. The rundown of the different types of vegetarian diets was moderately interesting, and there are a couple of Seth articles, but basically, this is just fluff.

*****

PUKE ON THE WORLD #16 (SASE from 3133 Harriet Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408): POTW is regularly publishing 4 pages now, and on a laughs-per-page basis they're doing pretty damned well. The highlight of this issue is the Barbara Walters interview with Henry Rollins; it puts all the other Henry interviews to shame. Regular features include Ed Asshole's "My Drunken Opinions", the Pygmoid comic, featuring a guy who thinks he's a nuthatch, and advice from Dr. Mo', Gynecologist at large.

*****

PUNCTURE #11 ($2 from 1674 Filbert St. #3, San Francisco, CA 94123): A refreshing pfanzine, with print large enough to read and a sane layout. Rather than try to cover everything in new music, they focus in on relatively few groups (though with 48 pages, that's still a lot) and even their short reviews are a couple of paragraphs long. Feature articles this time on the SST and Flying Nun (from New Zealand) labels and interviews with Camper Van Beethoven and Agitpop surround a passle of live and recorded music reviews and a rundown on the SF scene(s).

*****

PURPLE CABBAGE #1 ($1 from Eric Sinclair, 704 Gilchrist, COllege Station, TX 77840): A freeform literary mag that at times begins to resemble a mail-art network. Stories, poetry, and art, as well as some dreadfully cluttered collages, fill these pages. For the most part the works here seem more concerned with creating a mood than telling a story, but it's hard to tell for sure. I liked the expose of the demonic origins of Charlie Brown. They may be looking for contributions, who knows?

*****

PV NETWORK NEWS August 1986 ($15/yr from Rt. 2, Box 274, Santa Fe, NM 87505): The PV Network is basically a group of folks who are interested in photovoltaic power. Well, actually, they're more than interested, they're involved right up to their gunwales. Each issue features a whole batch of technical talk on which brands of what work how, plus dealer addresses, hints on installations, and words of wisdom on just what can be run from 12 volts. Quite a bit, as it turns out, including the computer used to produce this zine.

*****

RAD #37 (50¢ & 39¢ postage from PO Box 867, Morro Bay, CA 93442): Normally this is a pretty standard pfanzine, but a couple of recent events have provoked them to make this the special "Freedom of Speech Issue". Of course you all know about the PMRC, and some of you probably know about the trouble the DKs are in (for the rest, the Dead Kennedys are being prosecuted in LA for including an allegedly-obscene poster in an album. The ironic part is that there was a warning sticker on the cover), but the final straw was that the post office tried to prevent the mailing of the previous RAD because it had the F-word on the cover. Anyhow, they've got a good selection of stuff on censorship in here, including some interesting words from Frank Zappa on the parts of the Senate hearings that you didn't see on TV.

*****

RADIO FREE EUROPE #2 ($2 CASH from Caryn Rose, PO Box M481, Hoboken, NJ 07030): As you might guess from the title, this is a fanzine devoted solely to the music and mystery of the band R.E.M. In some ways similar to U2 USA, and featuring that zine's editor writing a column on rarities, RFE is well-done but aimed at a limited audience. If you don't know the full names of every member of the band, plus every song they've ever played, this may not be for you. If you are that sort of fan, there are live show and video reviews, stuff on records, tapes, and videos, and lots of photos here. Not part of the official fanclub, but fans nonetheless.

*****

RAGTIME #3 (75¢ from Charles Clark, PO Box 15674, Minneapolis, MN 55415): Some people may take issue with my calling this a pfanzine, but it's devoted to music and that's what counts by me. The reason that it doesn't fit in with the mold is that Charles is interested specifically in Christian rock and roll, the likes of Stryper and Amy Grant. He seems to know his stuff, and he covers the scene with quiet enthusiasm. The preaching is kept to a bare minimum as this is definitely a zine about music.

*****

RAW POGO ON THE SCAFFOLD #4 (25¢ & a stamp from Eric, 1806 Eastman Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18018): Short pfanzine that seems mostly devoted to letting the editor rave about whatever crosses his mind. Stark glaring black and white with the sort of manic layout you've grown to know and love from other zines. Mostly live show and record reviews with some odds and ends on how crappy the scene is and how filled with posers it is.

*****

RAUNCH-O-RAMA INFORMATION SHEET #8 (25¢ from Brad Goins, PO Box 2432, Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): Finding "industrial" to be too narrow a term, Brad has focused his newsletter on the "abrasive", both in music and in drawings. In addition to reviewing abrasive music from several genres, he has started sponsoring Abrasive Mail Art contests. Who knows what will come from this crazy man next? This issue features John E, Eugene Chadbourne, and Fred Frith works.

*****

REALISTIC LIVING #4 ($10/yr from 7110 San Mateo #129, Dallas, TX 75223): These people seem to be heavily concerned with reality as expressed through something they call "Radical Christianity". Their journal contains some stories about the world going to pot, movie and book reviews, and a couple chapters from a new book on reality. The only trouble I have with them is that their reality seems more like mysticism to me. They cover the news from the point of view of "interpretive response" and see themselves as some sort of new prophets.

*****

REALITY NOW ($1 from PO Box 6326, Stn. A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1P7 CANADA): An anarchist zine that spends a lot of its space in supporting those who have rebelled against the system, without always examining the question of whether they deserve support. On the other hand, they also spread a message of hope for the future, and have some ideas on how to get there. Articles in this

tabloid report on the British Miners' Strike, Omori, Steve Layton, Standing Deer and others. All in all a good, if somewhat unfocused, effort.

*****

RED BUDDHA Vol. 1 #8 (75¢ from Zendokan Budokai, PO Box 664, Mansfield, OH 44901): This is the journal of the Zendokan Budokai, or Mind-Way Church. Their main interests are the eastern and western warrior traditions,a nd each issue they try to spotlight one or more of these traditions. This time they discuss the origin and a few techniques of the Ninja, and then reprint a selection of wisdom from Frank Herbert's DUNE, which fits in surprisingly well. While every issue is on a slightly different topic, RB tends to revolve around meditation and martial arts.

*****

RESISTANCE #4 (70¢ from Brett Ackerman, 2 Batypath Dr., Boylston, MA 01505): A pfanzine with stronger political overtones than most. Brett is somewhere on the left-to-anarchist end of the spectrum but I'm not sure just where, as he prints all sorts of letters including one incredibly stupid one that claims anarchy can't work since "without a government, there would be no schools to educate our children". There are a bunch of nifty photos, marred by illegible captions, a skate report, and lots of live and a few record reviews.

*****

RIDE THE WOHL WHIP COMETBUS #22 (5 22¢ stamps from Aaron, PO Box 4726, Berkeley, CA 94704): The pfanzine with the ever-changing name is back again, and bigger and better than ever despite the printing difficulties that delayed it (but hey, that won't hold up your copy!). Besides interviews & reviews there are a lot of other interesting things here, like the selection of photos and notes found in Berkeley's dumpsters, the Skate column by Rube, the graphics and the intelligent book reviews. Go for it.

*****

RIDING THE BLINDS #6 ($1.25 from Richard Lopez, 1424 N. Concord Ave., Santa Maria, CA 93454): Richard clearly likes music which is innovative yet true to the roots; this accounts for his interest in Howlin' Wolf, Little Richard and the new crop of country-influenced rockers. This issue spotlights an interview with Killdozer's Michael Gerald, followed by a whole shitload of record reviews, including the shortest one (2 letters & a question mark) I've seen lately. Opinionated enough to be lots of fun.

*****

RIO GRANDE DEFENSE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER April 1986 (Donation from PO Box 2066, San Benito, TX 78586): News and views from folks obviously opposed to the Reagan administration's policy of deporting Central American refugees, though whether they have any connection with the Sanctuary movement I don't know. Most of the news here is about the refugees themselves, together with some addresses to write to in protest of their treatment.

*****

ROCK N' BISCUITS #2 (50¢ from Libby Gast, Route 3 Box 414, Trinity, NC 27370): A pfanzine that tries to cover as much of North Carolina music news as it can sink its teeth into. This issue features articles on a couple of Winston-Salem bands: The Allisons, the Right Profile, and Let's Active. Also gives tour schedules for NC bands and club listings for area establishments.

*****

THE RUBBER FANZINE Vol. 1 #3 ($1 & 39¢ postage from Rudi Rubberoid, PO Box 2432, Bellingham, WA 98227-2432): A magazine devoted entirely to rubber-stamped art. It's proven to be a popular idea; Rudi has 35 contributors to this issue and even at that he's turning away submissions. If you want to lower your chance of being rejected, use black ink and slick white paper; better yet, send for a sample copy and read what Rudi has to say.

*****

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SAMISDAT #181 ($15/500 pages, SASE for catalog from Merritt Clifton, PO Box 129, Richford, VT 05476): This is somewhat of a maverick litmag. SAMISDAT exists as a series of regular issues and a series of chapbooks, with Merritt sending out stuff whenever he has enough to stuff an envelope. Besides small press, he's also deeply interested in ecology, and this issue leads off with a long article graphically describing the effects of acid rain on the Quebec farm where he lives. Although there are plenty of poems, short stories and art here, I read SAMISDAT for Merritt's writings and reviews. He also offers assorted litmags and chapbooks at $1 the pound to anyone who wants to take them off his hands.

*****

SAND CASTLES #2 ($1 or The Usual from Vicki Rosenzweig, 39 Lynwood Pl. #3, New Haven, CT 06511): So far this sfanzine is a perzine (which means, for those of you not in the field, that Vicki did all of the writing herself), but the editor has aspirations of wider things, so send in those interesting articles. This time around, Vicki talks about being a news junkie, reports on Boskone, reviews ZEN WITHOUT ZEN MASTERS (which, by the way, is an excellent book), reviews zines and then sits back and lets the LOC writers have a few pages. Pleasant and illuminating.

*****

SCHMOCK #5 ($1 from Bulerstr. 5, 7277 Wildberg 1, WEST GERMANY): The first (and as far as I know, still the only) German pfanzine in English. Of course their coverage of European bands is excellent, but the editors encourage all of their readers to write in, with the result that they have plenty of record reviews from the States and even a scene report from New Zealand. The same people also run X-Mist Records, a small label and distribution service, with many records for sale -- send them a few IRCs for more information.

*****

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #59 ($2.50 from Richard E. Geis, PO Box 11408, Portland, OR 97211): SFR is more than a sfanzine, it's become an institution, albeit one that is due for a massive change soon (smaller, monthly issues are promised for 1987). This is therefore practically your last chance to get in on the old SFR before it becomes a legend. The meat of SFR is reviews of current SF, including columns by John Brunner and Orson Scott Card (and if you don't know who they are this probably isn't the zine for you), but there are also Geis' political and social opinions, lots of art, and a lettercol. There are reasons that SFR wins Hugos.

*****

SF SPECTRUM #10 ($3 or 4 IRCs from Wieslaw Tumulka, 14 Sheerstock, Haddenham, Near Aylesbury, Bucks. HP17 8EN, UK): A sfanzine in several acts. First there is SF SPECTRUM itself, a zine of fiction and poetry. Almost all of this is mediocre (or worse), with the exception of John Rosenman's "Leapfrogging", which at least takes a new tack at an old idea. Then there is SF SPECTRUM EXTRA, a review zine, which has an article on writer/musician Mick Farren, plus book and fanzine reviews. Next comes SF WRITERS & POETS, a critical zine. This whole issue is devoted to the fiction of August Derleth. Finally there is COSMIC COMMENTS, the lettercolumn, spun off into its own reduced-print zine.

*****

SHOCK TREATMENT #1 (25¢ & a stamp from Vampyress, 163 Randolph St., Carteret, NJ 07008): A plea for positive instead of negative anarchy among punks. The writer used to be bad but now she's got a better attitude, she wants to share it, and she wants you to repent. Take it or leave it.

*****

SHOOT #12 1/2 (50¢ (?) from Carol, PO Box 6101, E. Lansing, MI 48823): SHOOT is sort of conceptual mail art. Every so often Carol fills up an envelope with whatever comes to hand and sends it out to the suckers on her mailing list. In this issue I got a gum wrapper, some Russian 101 homework, excerpts from texts describing strange native rituals, a Crucifucks concert poster and some band photos. I suspect that no two issues are the same, in which case a collection of SHOOT will be of great interest to archaeologists of the future.

*****

THE SHOT HEARD AROUND THE WORLD #6 (SASE (?) from David Koenig, 200 E. Price St. #1B, Linden, NJ 07036): One-page zine with teeny-tiny handwriting. David discusses the state of the scene in NY/NJ (his assessment: a good year so far) and reviews a couple

of records, including the new Ramones import. Could this be the future of pfanzines -- a page from every punk?

*****

SHREDDED SLIME #3 (60¢ or The Usual from Jim, 1646 Yakona Rd., Baltimore, MD 21204): A pfanzine that starts out confusing and then turns relatively normal. The first few pages are hideously and deliberately politically incorrect, with photos of half-nekkid women holding guns and interviews with Marine Corps types on whether the US is ready for war. But gradually Jim segues into reviews, and by the time the Grateful Dead concert review rolls around you'll forget that anything was ever wrong.

*****

SIUSA NEWS ($20/yr from Survival International (USA), 2121 Decatur Pl. NW, Washington, DC 20008): This comes from the U.S. branch of a group trying to help the indigenous peoples of the world. They do this by publicizing the plight of these peoples and by conducting letter-writing campaigns on their behalf. Members are periodically updated with lists of where to write; the NEWS contains stories on the various people being helped.

*****

THE SMALL PRESS BOOK REVIEW Vol. 1 #5 ($4 from PO Box 176, Southport, CT 06490): Just what the title says, reviews of books from small presses. Small presses are defined by exclusion: they are everything other than the big New York publishing houses (it's not clear what side of the line University presses fall on; none of their products are reviewed in this issue). 22 reviews, from an anthology of ocean management papers to a story of sexual abuse meant as a cautionery tale to children to historic scholarship to fiction and verse. Includes addresses for the publishers.

*****

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC #28 (75¢ from Industrial Union Party, PO Box 80, New York, NY 10159): The IUP are basically DeLeonists, socialists heavily influenced by the American theorist Daniel DeLeon. As such they believe that reforms within the capitalist infrastructure are a waste of time, and call for revolution instead. Much of this issue is a reporting of the ills of capitalism, including points where reformism obviously didn't work. More time is spent on the evils of the current system than on the good to come in the future; somehow this seems wrong to me. We all know that there are things wrong. What we don't know is how to fix them.

*****

SOCIETY FOR THE ERADICATION OF TELEVISION (SASE from PO Box 1124, Albuquerque, NM 87103): Just what the name says, folks. These people present serious and thoughtful reasons as to why one would want to get the television completely out of the house -- they're not religious fanatics or anything like that, just people who want to do something other than watch the idiot box. They advocate totally removing your set from your home, but I'm not willing to go to that extreme -- after all, I can quit whenever I want.

*****

THE SOUTH SOUND ALLIANCE Vol. 6 #5 ($15/yr from PO Box 14742, Portland, OR 97214): Puget Sound, that is. This tabloid is a "regional networking newspaper" that despite a 30,000 circulation still manages to stay close to some small-scale issues, with a couple of columns on local lesbians in this one. They also cover more national social action items like the new California grape boycott and the dangers of nuclear subs. Other features include and article on Starhawk, reports on the local Greens and an extensive calendar.

*****

SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM AND YOUR POCKET WRENCH #7 (50¢ or 39¢ postage from David, 7824 Kistmet St., Miramar, FL 33023): A strange little literary magazine. They used to just publish oddball stories, and they still do that, but finally they have discovered a purpose in their lives. Two issues ago, they declared war on Andorra, and now invasion plans are proceeding apace. The editors reason that any fanzine owning an independent country will get much more respect in the small press world, and I expect they may be right.

*****

SPECIAL ALERT #73 (50¢ from Destiny Publishers, PO Box 177, Merrimac, MA 01860): A bit of analysis of New Testament teachings, with special reference to the second coming of Christ. Published in January of this year, this issue is notable for predicting that Halley's Comet is the star announcing the second coming.

*****

SPEW AND REVIEW #16 (SASE & 25¢ from Bob Konshak, 1490 E. Ryan Ave., Maplewood, MN 55109): In his new statement of purpose, Bob says that S&R is "guaranteed to be crude, boorish and vulgar or your money back". That seems fair enough for this single-sheeter that takes everything to task. Bob mostly bitches about the music scene in this issue, calling on concerned consumers to patronize bootleg recordings and pointing out that Husker Du has pretty well sold out. Also random bits of humor and anarchy.

*****

SPIEGELMAN'S MAILART RAG #3 ($1 (?) from Lon Spiegelman, 1556 Elevado St., Los Angeles, CA 90026): There's no price on this and I suspect a trade would be more welcome than mere money. Lon has been involved with mailart since 1973, consciously so since about 1978, and has submitted stuff to well over 1000 shows since then. In this zine he discusses the state of the international mailart network, prints photos of mailart dignitaries to have visited the LA area, and generally provides a glimpse at the world of a mail artist. I'm sure he knows a lot more about the field than I do; if you want to get seriously involved, get in touch with him.

*****

SPOOKY PAWS #5 (50¢ & 22¢ postage from Carah Productions, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): A zine for the punk rock comics fan cat lover. Actually, the cats are the primary concern, the other stuff is just put in by Carrie & Sarah who do the zine. Each issue features drawings of cats, a centerfolf Playcat of the Month, and excerpts from the diaries of the various cats in the Carah household.

*****

SRAF BULLETIN 95 ($5/yr from PO Box 1751, San Francisco, CA 94101): This apa, for collectivist anarchists, is still struggling along, although it hasn't been really healthy for a couple of years. The petty bickering over some things continues, but there are still rays of sense showing through, and thoughtful discussion of anarchist issues is still carried on. As usual, the major problem is that donations are not keeping up with the costs, something that seems to plague anarcho-communist projects. SRAF is still a relatively low-pressure place to get involved with other anarchists, with no necessity to reply quickly and few hassles for newcomers who don't come in expressly to attack others.

*****

STREET #3 ($1 (?) from PO Box 278, Cambridge, MA 02238): Large tabloid devoted to the Boston scene. From the looks of it this may be a year or so old so you'd better write first. Great section of interviews with people who helped make the 60's in Boston, a selection of reminiscences on the old West End, a couple of stories about people getting out of the psych ward. There's also an interview with poet Lyn Lifshin and some music stuff. They say STREET exists to publish poetry, but because of a screw-up there isn't any in this issue.

*****

STUDIO X ($2 (?) from 636 Hawthorne #6, Houston, TX 77006): I have this horrible feeling that I haven't quite figured this one out, and that makes it very hard to review. "Studio X is a cultural magazine of art, poetry, photography, ideas, and action". Well, yes, so it is, and well-printed on nice paper in a variety of colors. But it also seems to be some sort of social project, an attempt to remedy the world's problems via art. And it also seems to be a linking pin for the local Arab community, with pages in Farsi and coverage of the fall of the Shah of Iran. And it's also an artist's techniques publication, with instructions on building a potter's wheel and a kiln. Whatever it is, studio x is certainly interesting and intriguing.

*****

SUPER SHOPPER Vol. IV #3 ($17.94/12 issues from AGH, 2927 S. Industrial Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89109): Another slick little number for the impoverished soul who doesn't read fanzines. Contains a few sketchy tips on eating right (ie, watch out for waxed cucumbers, eat less red meat), pages and pages of refund offers (so you don't miss your chance for a Pine-Sol 1986 calendar) and a section showing the newest and brightest selections on the junk food shelf.

*****

SWEEPSTAKES MAGAZINE Vol. VI #3 ($8.97/yr from

AGH, 2927 S. Industrial Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89109): This one gives Super Shopper readers something to do after they get home from the supermarket -- they can stay up all night printing the words "Morton's Little Girl's Cash for College Sweepstakes" on 3 x 5 cards. Besides a listing of current sweepstakes they print inspirational stories from past winners -- all of whom subscribe to this magazine, of course.

*****

SYNOPSIS Spring 1986 ($15/yr from CEASE, PO Box 27, Cambridge, MA 02238): From the Coalition to End Animal Suffering and Exploitation comes this hardcore animal rights newsletter. The members of CEASE are the front line activists, not afraid to get arrested wearing bloody furs through Saks or harassing hunters in Rhode Island. About half of the magazine is set aside for reports of these and other current CEASE actions; the rest is a conglomeration of articles on how man mistreats animals and why it is bad to do so.

*****

SYNTHESIS #22 ($3.75/5 issues from LED, PO Box 1858, San Pedro, CA 90733): Published by the League for Ecological Democracy, this is a journal for Greens, Deep Ecologists, and co-conspirators. They report extensively about the structure (or lack thereof) of the North American Green groups, and the (perhaps inevitable) factionalism that is happening. There are also pieces on the wider impact of the Greens around the world, and reviews of current books and periodicals. The tip of an iceberg.

*****

TADDY WAMPUS #3 (75¢ from 486 Portland Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102): Nice tabloid with a variety of news and views from those opposed to the system. The unquestioned top piece of this issue is an account by Abel Halpern of his visit to the University of El Salvador; as an American university student, I find it nearly incomprehensible that students in El Salvador live with the daily fear of being shot by their government. Also stuff on the American Green movement and on the FCC control of the airwaves.

*****

TEE-VEE TRIVIA #2 (50¢ from Tim Arnold, PO Box 6032, East Lansing, MI 48823): A zine from a television fanatic. Tim's cover letter says, "My stuff is related to a teevee show about silliness and the pursuit of trivial knowledge on video, and a lot of the references are too topical for you to understand". If you're the sort of person who wants to swap videotapes, or who is dying to know the Addams Family's street address, this one is for you. Other than trivia, the major part of the zine is a comic about one Sloucho, who is apparently one of those topical references that I don't understand.

*****

THIRD RAIL #12 (SASE from PO Box 472084, Tulsa, OK 74147): An anti-authoritarian pfanzine from what was once a cultural wasteland but is now starting to sprout a few zines. TR divides its space between music reviews and more political stuff: thoughts about the Libyan bombing and Contra aid are in this issue, for example. Also a rundown on the scene in Stillwater, Oklahoma, such as it is.

*****

TORTOISE TRAILS #1 ($5/2 yrs from PO Box 24459, San Francisco, CA 94124): OK, how many of you have heard of Green Tortoise? Yes, that's right, the alternative bus company that was started by a bunch of hippies from Haight Ashbury and still offers good tours cheap. Well, now they offer vicarious good tours cheap as well, with this tabloid. This premiere issue contains an account of one trip down to Baja Mexico, various reminiscences from GT drivers, and the beginning of a GT history -- and, amazingly enough, no ads. If you want the lowdown on their prices, their toll-free number (outside California) is 800-227-4766.

*****

TRANET #42 ($30/yr from PO Box 567, Rangeley, ME 04970): The title stands for "Transnational Network for Appropriate/Alternative Technologies", which is quite a mouthful, but what it boils down to is that they act as a global clearinghouse for people trying to change the way the world does business. TRANET is a secondary source -- they don't, for example, tell you how to build a low-technology waterwheel or what the legal problems of co-ops in Canada are. Instead, they tell you who to write to find out more. TRANET members are encouraged to be active, becoming a part of a worldwide network. Once a year a members' directory is published to allow networking of common interests.

*****

TREATY OAK TIMES Vol. 1 #3 ($15/6 issues from 7205 Coronado Circle, Austin, TX 78752): Published by Lone Star Green, one of the increasing number of Green groups springing up around the country, in this case part of the Committees of Correspondence network. TIT has some concerns which are relatively unusual among Green zines. The first is Texan nationalism and separatism. The second is that they are very down on organized religion, with the exception of pagan faiths. In between, they discuss the usual Green stuff -- treating the earth well, what's up on the local lakes, and so on.

*****

TRIANGLE #5 ($6/yr from Suite 102-1912, 1214 Wilmington, Salt Lake City, UT 84106): It takes guts to publish an avowedly gay & lesbian magazine in Salt Lake City, but the TRIANGLE staff are doing a good job of it. They have the expected bits of local news, advertisements, letters and so on, but their coverage of other issues than AIDS is better than that of most G&L papers. This time, for example, there are 3 full articles on alcoholicism as it affects gays and lesbians, how to beat it, and where to go for help. A very strong showing for a mag that's been in business under half a year.

*****

TROUBLED TIMES #6 ($1 from PO Box 1539, Santa Cruz, CA 95061): Hey, a slick cover! Inside are the same irreverent TT features regualr readers have grown to know and love in this alternative journal. There's controversy (centering around a graphic published a few issues back, showing a guy with a pizza saying "Smasha the Stata" -- is this racist or not?), humor (the continuing saga of Burnt, the hippie capitalist), revolutionary cheerleading (the obligatory Haymarket tragedy story) and pure and simple snideness (The Hetero Feminist on the drawbacks of various means of birth control). TT may be a voice in the wilderness in liberal non-alternative Santa Cruz, but it's a welcome thing back here in Beantown.

*****

TRUISMS Vol. 1 ($3 from Yrizarry, 22 Belvedere, San Francisco, CA 94117): 20 full page mail-art type xeroxes with captions by the editors, Yrizarry & Kathleen Brody. (Besides their own stuff works by Stephen Perkins and Janet Janet are in this collection). The theme, if theme there is, seems to be that life is shitty, nothing can help us, and modern technology only makes it worse. There's an occasional phrase ("Philosophy doesn't prepare us for death, death prepares us for philosophy") or poem ("Love Sonnet to the Blowjob") here, but for the most part it's just high-contrast stark art and detourned images.

*****

TUSMORKEOYENE 4 (from Kristin Thorrud (Almarian), Jongsstuben 17, 1300 Sandvika, NORWAY): From the graphics and occasional proper name, I'd guess that this is a pagan or fantasy-related zine, but I'm just not sure, because it is entirely in Norwegian with the exception of the title of one poem ("The Enchanted Isles"). If anyone can enlighten me, that would be nice.

*****

TWIST! #4 ($1 from Pat, 2381 Capital SW, Battle Creek, MI 49015): This is the special "Create Your Own TWIST" issue, with the word balloons that used to contain satirical quips left empty for the discerning reader to fill in. "Don't just rush through putting down any remark that comes to mind" cautions the editor, "Stop to reflect." Other than empty word balloons, the zine consists of a collection of things to see and hear, bits of advertisements from the 1950's, collage photos, public service comix and the like. A strange, strange thing -- what you'd expect to float to the top if our culture was stirred well.

*****

TWO HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS #2 (55¢ from Bill Deleo, 8 Beech St., Merrimack, NH 03054): From one of the editors of the former DWIDZINE, this one helps keep the NH pfanzine scene alive. The skateboarding has been toned down (though it's still present) and the size and musical coverage increased. This issue's best feature is "Interview With a Kid on the Street", wherein the editor talks to a random punk and gets some surprisingly thoughtful conversation in return.

*****

U2 USA #5 ($4 from Fred Mills, 2907-D Violet Dr., Charlotte, NC 28205): How much can you write about one band, anyhow? Well, when the band is as popular and productive as U2, a helluva lot. This is a thick, thick pfanzine with only a few photos and a lot of words. Fans write in with reviews of live

shows, thoughts on the group and their music, and other whatnot. There are interviews here, articles on collectibles, record reviews, and an out-front appreciation of the group. The only slightly jarring note here is the almost ritual avoidance of bootleg material, necessary to maintain good relations with the group's management.

*****

'UKULELE 3 (The Usual from Daniel Farr, #403, 1750 Kalakaua Ave., Honolulu, HI 96826): A return to the traditional sfanzines of days past, when writing and thinking were the rule rather than artwork and production values, or, worse yet, Star Trek. (All right, so I exaggerate the bad state of the current sfanzine scene. So sue me). Dan reviews a couple of other current fannish zines and then goes right straight into the letter column, where discussions of the Burning Social Issues of our day are developing goodnaturedly.

*****

THE ULC NEWS Vol. 24 #1 (Donation from 601 3rd St., Modesto, CA 95351): This comes from the International Headquarters of the Universal Life Church. It contains some theology (including oddball stuff -- the ULC President seems to have recently declared himself king), some testimonials, news of various ULC congregations, and of course information on how to get invovled with the church (PhD in Religion only $100) and the current rulings from the IRS on the ULC's tax exemption.

*****

UNCLE FESTER #10 ($2 from 2235 France Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55416): UF is scheduled to join the YOUR FLESH distribution network soon, but I think you can still get copies directly from Jake for the moment. Anyhow, this pfanzine has come a long way in the issues that I've seen, though the skulls and axes and blood and stuff are still present. So are a batch of record and zine reviews, and interviews with Red Hot Chili Peppers, Suicide Commandos, Powermad and more. Features an 11x17 Suicide Commandos poster in the centerfold, and Jake has more posters and stickers available if you send along some stamps.

*****

THE UNDERGROUND GRAMMARIAN Vol. 10 #4 ($15/yr from PO Box 203, Glassboro, NJ 08028): A small journal written by someone who apparently takes the English language to be a serious tool, attacking those who do not. In a series of stories quoting actual educators and their childish prey, the authors of this gem point out sloppy thinking, inability to write complete sentences, and general mushheadedness. This was a pleasure to read, although I fear bad reviews for a trade copy of FACTSHEET FIVE.

*****

UNDULANT FEVER #10 (The Usual from Bruce D. Arthurs, 5316 W. Port Au Prince, Glendale, AZ 85306): Bruce's sfanzine is back again after a long hiatus. This being the case, the primary job of the issue is to catch up on publishing locs and to promise a more orderly schedule in the future. Bruce also discusses the transition between writing fanzines and writing pro science fiction, plus various goings-on in his personal life.

*****

THE UPRIGHT OSTRICH Vol. V #6 ($3 from Peggy Poor, PO Box 11961, Milwaukee, WI 53211): One of the biggest of the Constitutionalist publications, UO provides a good overview of the tax protest, hard money and related movements (occasionally slipping off into something altogether, as with their current support of what is apparently a perpetual motion machine). There are legal arguments here (although my lawyer says you ought to take them with a grain of salt), movement news, and plenty of good old conservative philosophy. The big news in this issue is thaat the civil rights case by some of Gordon Kahl's friends is going ahead, and that "the truth" in his persecution may some day come out.

*****

URGL-ORP #12 1/2 (50¢ from Nicole, PO Box 2541, Stn. D, Ottawa, ONT K1P 5W6, CANADA): A mini-issue designed to get a few things said before Nicole takes off for some world traveling. The highlight of this issue is an excellent account of her experiences at the Haymarket '86 anarchist convention, including arrest and Chicago jails. There's also a batch of zine reviews and an article on food irradiation, the latest bugaboo of the natural eating set.

*****

VETERANS FOR PEACE NEWSLETTER #2 ($1 from PO Box 3881, Portland, ME 04104): Just as with other people, there are veterans of past US wars (most notably Vietnam, but there are WWII and Korean vets here as well) who are working for peace today. Their newsletter is aimed at understanding both the problems of veterans and what these same people can do now to lessen the chance of a new draft, a war in Nicaragua, or a nuclear exchange. A combination support and activist group.

*****

VICTORIAN VAULT Vol. 2 #3 ($1 from White Knight Productions, PO Box 656, Wautoma, WI 54982-0656): "For the Connoisseur of the Victorian Underground, Victorian dolls, Music, Art, Movies and Photography" says the masthead, but the major concern inside seems to be sexuality, most specifically how cute little girls look. There's no hint of sex with them, only a longing, and the pictures are all from published sources -- underwear ads, television shows, that sort of thing. Also prints stories and movie reviews.

*****

VICTORY Vol. 1 #2 ($30 membership from CMA, PO Box 22790, Memphis, TN 38122): Tabloid from some good old boys who are darned well going to stop them Communisks before they get to this country and stop the K-Mart blue light specials (and yes, they mention precisely that evil in this issue). CMA stands for Civilian Material Assistance, or Civilian Military Assistance -- they can't quite seem to make up their minds. Anyhow, this is equal parts appeals for funds to support the heroic anti-commie rebels in Nicaragua and Angola and scare stories about Nicaraguan schoolbooks (picture of page showing counting via grenades included) and Tom Hayden (husband of Hanoi Jane) running for the Senate. This would be funny if it wasn't so scary.

*****

VICTORY UPDATE (The Usual or large amounts of money in small denominations from Myles Bos, 4196 Blenkinsop Rd., Victoria, BC V8X 2C4, CANADA): This is the latest update from the people who are bidding to hold the 1989 World Science Fiction Convention in Myles' yard. In this update, they announce their victory in the balloting, which is odd, because the balloting doesn't take place until September. In any case, it appears that they have planned a very fun and traditional Worldcon, with goats and a Land Rover and no fakefen. FACTSHEET FIVE supports the Myles' House bid for Worldcon '89, and urges all readers to vote for them again this fall, just in case this first victory doesn't stick.

*****

VINYL June 1986 ($16/yr from 201 Western Ave. N., St. Paul, MN 55102): "VINYL concentrates on giving exposure to artistic producers and providing an informed critical assessment of their work", and the producers they are concerned with are for the most part on the cutting edge of art. The problem with being on the edge is that a lot of people fall off, and although I am not an informed critic, some of this stuff seems just plain dumb to me, like the "art installation" consisting of video cameras and surveillance monitors which the audience can play with. I go to see that sort of thing in the Museum of Science, not the Museum of Art. Nonetheless, there's a lot happening on the Twin Cities art scene, and VINYL makes an effort to get the best of it better known. They also publish V DESIGN REVIEW for innovative designers in fashion and phtography.

*****

MICHAEL VOODOO (SASE from PO Box 572332, Washington, DC 20037): This mail artist continues to mail art, or what he thinks passes for it. It seems that he has passed through his HUSTLER phrase and so can be safely recommended to those with delicate sensibilities once again. Of late his parcels have a tendency to be filled with mutated postage stamps and xeroxed photos of unidentified famous people.

*****

THE VORPAL BLADE #28 ($3/yr from Janice Lee, 50B Oakridge St., Greenwich, CT 06830): Newsletter of Mensa's Television Impact SIG. (Subscriptions are available to all, MENSA members or not). TVB consists of clippings sent in by members about television in all its guises. They range from silly cartoons (Cable-ready wrist TV) to innovative TV emplacements (at supermarket checkout stands) to news of a new gadget to zap all the commercials out of your viewing. It seems sort of strange to see all this written documentation of a visual medium, but it's all quite interesting.

*****

WAYFARER'S GUIDE TO THE PLANET ($1 from Intercropping Associates, PO Box 0161, Geneseo, NY

14454-0161): This booklet is a collection of essays by Donald Innis, originally published in INDRA'S NET. Donald sees a web of problems stretching around the globe, and tries to find threads where this web can be unravelled. Some of the concerns here are the power of television, the arms race, third world debt, and the lack of education in American schools. Intercropping, one method they advocate for making a start on the world's problems, is the growing of two or more crops in the same field; it apparently helps preserve soil nutrients and increases crop yields, but isn't possible for large factory farms.

*****

WDC PERIOD #14 ($1.50 from Chow Chow Productions, PO Box 43311, Washington, DC 20010-9311): Nice fat tabloid pfanzine that also devotes a lot of space to comix coverage. WDCP is the only zine I know that combines handwriting, typing, computer printing and typesetting, sometimes on the same page, which gives it a nice friendly feel. This issue there are a lot of comix, including Luna Tick's YOUNG AND THE FRUSTRATED, which was censored by the printer in #13, interviews with The Meatmen and Peach of Immortality, and lots of live show reviews. Punk in the DC area is very much alive and very much present in this zine.

*****

WHAT'S NEW June-July 1986 (SASE from IBP, 1440 Delaware Ave., Lexington, KY 40505-9990): Newsletter of the International Book Project. The IBP collects used books from US sources and sends them to teachers, schools, libraries and other places in the underdeveloped world. At the moment they have requests for half a million books, and a large number of books in stock, but are desperate for postage money. After twenty years in the business they're not about to give up, but as with all charities, they could use more support, and I think this is a worthwhile project.

*****

WHOLESOME #6 ($1.50 from Dave, 630 S. Spring Ave., La Grange, IL 60525): This pfanzine now has the distinction of having been banned from the high school that its editors attend. The whole sordid story is contained inside -- if I were them, I would think about calling the ACLU, or printing hilarious slanders about the administration, but they're more laid back than that. Anyhow, there are a couple of interviews here, of which the obvious standout is an extensive one with Albini of Big Black. WHOLESOME also prints various filler drawings, wholesome thoughts, and quickie disgusting stories that remind me of the kind of fantasies I used to have before I mellowed out. Anyhow, WHOLESOME isn't particularly, but it's still a lot of fun.

*****

WHO REALLY CARES Vol. 3 #1 ($1 from Stephe, 46 Louisa St., Ottawa, ONT K1R 6Y8, CANADA): A free-roaming zine concerned with all sorts of stuff, generally from a peaceful perspective. There are bits here on animal rights, on vegetarianism, bits of random poetry and drawings, comic strips, zine reviews, and a lot more. Stephe is interested in a lot of things, but mostly in learning how people can be people, and his far-reaching concerns show through in his zine.

*****

WIGGANSNATCH #20 ($2 from James Moore, PO Box 20061, Seattle, WA 98102): James has veered somewhat from his dream of turning WS into an alternative litmag -- recognizing that his readers prefer to talk about magic and paganism and the big things in life instead. So I guess WS will be all changed around again next ish. This time, it's a special issue, on dreams and dreaming. Unfortunately reading other people's dreams is somewhat like eating leftover oatmeal -- I'm somewhat embarassed that a few paragraphs of my own dreams made it into this issue. Fascinating stuff, but I think it didn't quite work.

*****

THE WIRKSHOP Vo. VI #7 ($15/6 months from S. & H. Wirk, PO Box 3441, Sparks, NV 89432): There once was a group called the Fellowship of Friends, who were involved with the Fourth Way teachings of Gurdjieff and Ouspensky. Then there were a batch of people who dropped out of it. One of those folks, Stella Wirk, decided that she wasn't done learning and thinking, and so WIRKSHOP was born. It is sort of a tour through the editor's mailbag, and serves to keep in touch a bunch of people with interests in becoming Awake. New people are subscribing now, and it is turning into sort of a general forum on mystical matters, somewhat independent of FOF. The Truth may not be here yet, but the seekers are.

*****

WISCONSIN COMMONWEALTH Vol. 4 #3 ($5/yr from LFP, PO Box 1222, Madison, WI 53701): LFP is the Labor-Farm Party, and this is their tabloid for the faithful. After reading only one issue I'm not sure precisely what they stand for, though they are clearly somewhere on the progressive/Green/Rainbow spectrum of the left. Articles in this issue discuss political strategy for upcoming elections, the situation in the Phillipines, and a number of labor issues.

*****

WONDERLAND #13 ($2.50 from David Techter, 2520 N. Lincoln #25-B, Chicago, IL 60614): Newsletter of the Lewis Carroll Collectors Guild, this is for people who enjoy nude photos of preteens. The magazine itself prints only line drawings; however, the greater part of the content is reviews of photo books, many imported from Europe, and ads for these same books. Due to current postal regulations the writers operate largely via pseudonyms, and even then must fear prosecution, although nothing more than words is exchanged in this forum. Strange world, isn't it?

*****

WRITE ON #9 ($1 & SASE from Judy St. John, Rte. 6 Box 344 A, Carthage, MO 64836): "Write On provides the opportunity for the beginner and the contest winner to become published", by running a series of short story (<750 words) and poetry (<24 lines) contests. Subscribers get vouchers enabling them to enter the contests, and the best entries are published here. There's also a listing of markets accepting submissions.

*****

WRITTEN WORD #2 (SASE from PO Box 137, Towson State U., Towson, MD 21204): A one-band pfanzine dedicated to Government Issue, a DC outfit that has gone through more band members in 6 years than most groups do in a lifetime. GI are, I hate to say, too obscure for me to recognize, and I can't get much idea of their musical style from this, but if you know and like them you should get in touch.

*****

X,Y,Z (50¢ from Glenn Sheldon, PO Box A-3597, CHicago, IL 60690): A poetry newsletter, with this issue being anemic due to a vacationing staff. X,Y,Z offers reviews of current poetry and a listing of markets accepting submissions; this time the focus is on places buying horror, SF and occult works.

*****

YELLOW SILK #19 ($4 from verygraphics, PO Box 6374, ALbany, CA 94706): This is the Animals! issue of this "Journal of Erotic Arts", but that doesn't mean cheap and sleazy bestiality. No, what it means is that the artists, writers, and poets who appear here have infused animal images into their work. This issue is mostly poetry, with only a few stories; by the nature of the theme, the poets tend to be more suggestive than graphic. A special nod to Nina Deckert's illustrations: beautiful color drawings of women with birds or dragons or lions. But why no men with cats or antelopes? "All persuasions, no brutality" is still the watchword here, but sometimes it seems as if that means erotica seen from the female point of view only.

*****

YOUR FLESH #10 ($2 from PO Box 3107, Minneapolis, MN 55403): YF is following the Law of the Successful pfanzine, and that law is Growth. Now dozens of pages in a large tabloid format, with reduced print to boot, YF reviews more stuff than you can shake a telephone pole at. Besides the reviews there is a look at the Mpls. scene (modestly titled "Why is Minneapolis so cool?"), a couple of interviews, lots of photographs, and a batch of comics, most of which you won't have seen elsewhere. YF has done flexidiscs in the past and plans special issues and other surprises in the future; keep an eye on them.

Poetry

by Alison Meyers

THE BLOTTER #5, June 1986: "Mostly Poetry Issue" ($1.50 single issue, $9/yr from C.F. Kennedy, 233 Woodbine Ave., Toronto, ONT M4L 3S3, CANADA. Will barter, or take Canadian stamps): Formerly THE BIBLIOFANTASIAC, THE BLOTTER has a new name and a new direction. From the editor's preface: "No longer purely s.f. and fantasy, we now include a little bit of everything. Poetry, reviews, short fiction, articles, unpublished excerpts...original art, interviews, you name it." With the exception of three straightforward, tightly controlled poems by Christopher Grey, the writing in this issue is mostly the undisciplined stuff of well-intentioned amateur poets. Poems either ramble and don't cohere, or swell with abstraction and anachronistic, inflated language. Still, the editors are reaching for something (politically, ethically) and we wouldn't want to dismiss their efforts out of hand. 22 saddle-stitched pages of readable type.

*****

NEOCANTON LEGACY, story and art by Ferret ($2 from Matt Howarth, Howski Studios, PO Box 804, Langhorne, PA 19047): An art comic book somewhat reminiscent of the Firesign Theatre's brand of humor. Unusual and funny.

*****

NEXT EXIT 7 & 8 ($6/yr, IRCs outside of Canada from Eric Folsom, RR #3, Harrowsmith, ONT, CANADA): Though ppublishing the works of many young poets, the editors' standards are high, The result is a refreshing, worthwhile magazine of good writing. Accepts unsolicited manuscripts of poetry and reviews only, send SASE. 32 saddle-stitched pages of readable type.

*****

MEMORY TRANSPOSED INTO THE KEY OF C, by Sheila E. Murphy (39¢ postage from Mockersatz Zrox, 104 Woodgate Ct., Sterling, VA 22170-1630): Composed of eleven very short prose fragments, MEMORY TRANSPOSED is not always immediately accessible -- but the language, in the end, does communicate. Murphy's is an original, literate voice. Graphics, layout and construction by Zen Sutherland. 8 saddle-stitched pages of readable type.

*****

THE BLOW GLOW/EGAD Vol. 1 #1, April 1986 ($2.50 or $5/yr from Bizarre Press, 21738 S. Avalon Blvd. #134, Carson, CA 90745): Semiannual, April/May and Oct/Nov. Writer's guidelines available for SASE. Poems range from the ridiculous (some intentionally so, others not) to the not-exactly-sublime but well-written (such as R.K. Barclay's "I Would Like To Be A Ghost With You"). A mixed bag, perhaps falling short, at least in this premiere issue, of fulfilling the editors' goal of "revitalizing poetry as a lively art form". 32 saddle-stitched pages of readable type.

*****

A PARTICULAR WARDROBE, by Andrew Savage (£1.00 from Purple Heather Publications, 12 Colne Road, Cowling, W. Yorkshire, BD22 OBZ UNITED KINGDOM): In his serious poems, Savage pays attention to some worthwhile issues: the negativity of competitiveness; the anomie and callousness of modern life. Unfortunately, he usually writes of these concerns in a heavy handed, ineffective way. In other poems, Savage's attempts at humor are childish and ghoulish -- not for the mature palate. 22 saddle-stitched pages of photocopied illustrations and fuzzy type.

*****

LOST AND FOUND TIMES #19, May 1986 ($3 or $10/5 issues from Luna Bisonte Prods, 137 Leland Ave., Columbus, OH 43214): Two really strong poems by Paul Weinman (it's worth buying this ish just to read his "Wordless Flowers") -- but, unfortunately, little else here worthy of note. 36 saddle-stitched pages of readable type.

*****

LOGARITHMIC, TRIGONOMETRIC, AND QUADRATIC TRANSFORMS, by Joseph A. Uphoff, Jr. (1025 Garner St., Box 18, COlorado Springs, CO 80905): 7 saddle-stitched pages of mathematical notations. Unless the reader is versed in these kinds of symbols, this little collection of pieces won't have much meaning. [It doesn't have any meaning at all from a mathematical point of view -- MG]

*****

TROUBLE AFTER SCHOOL PUBL. "I Can't Explain" issue. (50¢ from 204 W. 8th St. #25, Cincinnati, OH 45202): Poetry and prose of a punkish, though not particularly political, vein. Much of the writing is disjointed and seemingly without focus. The language, however, is not always uninteresting. 15 saddle-stitched pages of small, readable type.

*****

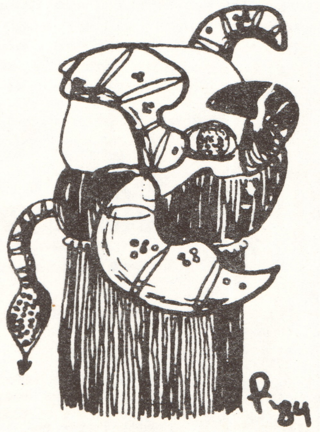
OUTRE: Experiments Wrenched From the Bowels of Deep Weirdness, edited by Jake Berry (2251 Helton Dr. #N7, FLorence, AL 35630): "Different" and "experimental" cannot be equated, necessarily, with "good". Though OUTRE may be très, très, it is only marginally interesting literature. 26 saddle-stitched pages of fairly readable, very small type.

*****

BOLD PRINT (FREE from Kyle Hogg, 1120 W. Grace St. #12, Richmond, VA 23220): A lighthearted, punkish zine. Most of the writing is not extremely mature, but there are instances of genuine humor and interesting observations. 10 stapled pages of fairly readable type.

*****

INTERNATIONAL MELODIC SCRIBBE #5, January 1986 (Pleasure Publications, 77 Thompson St., Padiham, Burnley, Lancs, ENGLAND): Hard to figure what the point of this paper is: no thematic unity, scanty politics, very short on quality writing. 3000 print run, 8 pages of stapled mimeo.



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Zines

by Shane Williams

BLACK MARKET #4 ($1.50 from 405 W. Washington St. #212, San Diego, CA 92103): San Diego's best zine. Cool attitude. They print a little profile on their readers, give the UK SUBS' Charles Harper a place to stay, a cool interview, and a great back cover. Equally enamored of hardcore and death rock and the essential art of Lee Ellington. Cool interviews with LA's WASTED YOUTH and VANDALS -- both of whom don't have the same personnel as in their heyday but both of whom are troupers. Other cool art comes from Luna Ticks and Ferret. Really worth it plus they're still young enough to be looking for contributors and further improvements.

BRAVEAR #4 ($2 from PO Box 3877, Berkeley, CA 94703): A good-looking, now 8 1/2 x 11 glossy that is pretty lefty. I don't like their coverage of THE DAMNED which is negative because they've been around so in another 10 years they'll just be like the Stones or something. Do like their cool gossip column where this ish the gals spoof FORCED EXPOSURE. Do like spotlight on cartoon here FERRET. Music coverage is pretty damned good, but I have reservations about the mixture of issues-oriented material. But if you're one of the many who don't want a music rag that is all music then this would be one of the best to check out, especially if the word "Berkeley" doesn't make you cringe in studied incorrectness.

FLIPSIDE #49 ($6/4 issues from PO Box 363, Whittier, CA 90608): The antithesis of FORCED EXPOSURE wherein dedicated caring people support not only their own scene but continue international coverage with an update on Germany (a German compilation is soon to be available ont he Flipside record label). Another real service provided is the continuation of instructions on "punktography" with spotlights on various practicing camera folks. The famous letter section is towards the rear and the famous unclassifieds are more plentiful than ever. Now if only the Screaming Sirens interview was longer...still 99 out of 100 possible points.

FORCED EXPOSURE #10 ($9/4 issues from PO Box 1611, Waltham, MA 02254): The antithesis of FLIPSIDE wherein East Coasters ridicule their fellow scenesters, wax poetic over records galore, and highlight a superstar -- in this case the luscious Lydia Lunch -- with a fine fine picture of her squeezing her breasts against Exene's equally voluptuous pair, not to mention the cover photo. Once again great book reviews plus coverage of artist Gary Painter makes it more than a music publication. Ultraboss even if they didn't print the book review I submitted.

OBITUARIES (Stamps from Bloody Mess, 5523 Montello Ave., Peoria, IL 61614): Bloody does it again. A bitchin' Tim Terminal cover of a beautiful female zombie leads off this nice mix of live reviews, record reviews, letters and even pix of girls who want to expose their punk rock bods because they know Bloody is a little twisted -- after all, he hangs around with GG Allin. Actually, Bloody is a bit schizo -- how many other guys are equally tight with Jello Biafra and GG Allin, one a prophet of punk for a better world, the other an advertisement for how to fuck like a beast for real. Collect all of Bloody's zines.

RIDING THE BLINDS (50¢ & stamps from Richard Lopez, 1424 N. Concord Ave., Santa Maria, CA 93454): Here's a reviewer of records just as enthusiastic as the pretentious assholes, oops, I mean record collectors like Cosloy, Johnson and Coley. But Richard is even more down to earth -- so earthy in fact that blues and country, the real kind, inspires him more than most hardcore. But he does cover good power trash and his interviews are top-notch. His latest format is very reminiscent of the revamped CONFLICT except for more interviews. I recommend this.

SPOOKY PAWS #5 (50¢ & a stamp from 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): The best issue yet with Bondage Cat, Cat of the Issue feature, and other cat art. Send in your kitty pix, art and stories to Carrie. The zine for those who know what species is the only intelligent form of life on earth, Felis Cattus.

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Stars on One

by Anni Ackner

These are the times that try a Visual Arts critic's soul. It's summer -- always a bad sign, as anyone with any sense knows perfectly well that nothing good can come of any month without an "R" in it -- the termparature is soaring -- Visual Arts critics take hot weather personally, convinced, as we are (no doubt rightly), that it's all part of an insidious plot by someone far too devious to contemplate to increase the vast hordes of middle-aged men who roam the streets of our fair cities clad in madras Bermuda shorts, thongs, and tee-shirts that read "Mustache Rides" -- just about every television program (including Johnny Carson, 60 MINTUES and, it sometimes seems, the 11 o'clock news) has gone into re-runs, and the movie studios are issuing forth with one hilarious, boffo comedy after another, all of them starring precisely the same has-been performers from cancelled television series as last summer's hilarious, boffo comedies, leaving the Visual Arts critic with virtually nothing to review, to the extent that your own beloved Visual Arts critic found herself seriously contemplating writing an insightful, in depth critique of New York's Liberty Weekend fireworks, a thing which would have been rather hard to do as she viewed those fireworks from under her bed with her fingers stuffed in her ears.

That you have been saved from the fate of having to wade through a juicy little piece on the excesses of the Grucci family is due solely to the auspices of WOR-TV (their address is generally published in T.V. Guide, if you'd like to write and thank them, and while you're at it you might ask them why they no longer run DR. WHO) which has chosen, for reasons on which you couldn't pay me enough money to speculate, to air this summer a program of sorts called, on what have proved to be fairly obvious grounds, THE CANNED FILM FESTIVAL. While I normally wouldn't waste your time and my own chatting about what is essentially just another in the long line of "T.V. Night At The Movies" series, (aired on the networks because, pre-cable, a successful theatrical movie was a tremendous ratings draw, and on the independents because an unsuccessful or second-run theatrical movie was cheaper to produce than a package of syndicated sit-coms. We all grew up with this type of series -- surely I'm not the only one among us who can't hear the title theme from GONE WITH THE WIND without immediately thinking of MILLION DOLLAR MOVIE -- and though they've become less popular since the advent of things like HBO and the trend towards independent stations producing their own original programming, you still find them lurking about here and there, beguiling the nights of cable-less insomniacs or keeping a housewife/husband company in the early afternoon, but offering nothing much about which to write to the hard-working Visual Arts critic), you must admit it does beat the alternative, and I must admit that neither "normally" or "essentially" are really operative words when it comes to this particular entry.

THE CANNED FILM FESTIVAL, for those of you who either have something better to do at 11:30 on Friday nights or have somehow managed to avoid the creeping encroachments of WOR (one of those new "superstations" you hear so much about meaning, basically, that instead of staying within a reasonable distance of their broadcast headquarters, their signal goes out to homes with cable all over the country. The only thing this does, for practical purposes, is allow people in, say, Wisconsin, to see Met and Ranger games if they happen to be so inclined -- or give them the opportunity to catch DAVEY AND GOLIATH on Sunday mornings if they're saddled with that sort of bent -- but it does give those of us who suffer from dark moments of paranoia and conspiracy fear anyway a really sparkling chance to ponder things like the Homogenization of Western Culture and what all those people in Wisconsin are making of Mrs. Potamkin and her Cadillacs) is a televised collection of what WOR fondly believe to be the worst movies ever made. Now, this is not a bad premise for a series of televised movies -- we all (or at least, those of us who might be nosing around in a publication of this sort) like terrible movies, as evidenced by the proliferation of books, periodicals and even fan clubs devoted to them, so there's obviously a market there -- but the problem is that, having developed the premise (and I'd love to meet the person in programming who pitched this one), WOR then turned around and did everything in its power to subvert it.

In the first place, the films shown thus far on THE CANNED FILM FESTIVAL simply haven't been horrible enough. To be really enjoyable, a movie of this nature has to go beyond the realm of bad all the way to abysmal. A plain old bad movie -- or worse, a mediocre one -- tends to simply bore, or annoy, or infuriate, depending on how much time, money and/or emotional involvement one has invested in it. No one wants to get stuck sitting through a movie that's only bad, and certainly no one is going to write a book about them. Do you have fond memories of THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING WOMAN? Would you pay money to see CADDYSHACK again? Do you even recall seeing VIOLETS ARE BLUE? I mean, really.

But an abysmal movie, well, that's quite another thing. A really, truly hideous movie -- one that makes you groan and shriek, throw popcorn at the screen and wonder at a world where people actually get paid to think up this kind of stuff -- is a thing of beatury and a joy forever, an experience that stays in the memory no matter what devies you use to blast it out. And they're rare, you know. To qualify for this kind of awfulness, a film must contain absolutely no redeeming social values whatsoever. The plot must be either implausible, idiotic, incoherent or all three; the writing must smell of deperate, desperate people trapped in a lonely room with a pot of over-boiled coffee, a carton of cigarettes, several grams of cocaine cut with Drano, and a deadline to meet; the direction must be sloppy, the acting Qualuudal, the budget invisible and, more than anything else, the film must possess no sense of humor at all. Any hint -- even the merest, tiniest glimmer -- that anyone involved with the production does not inherently and unshakeable believe that he or she is making an Academy Award winner, any sense at all that the thing was made as a throwaway, or even a joke, and the effect is spoiled. Very few films contain all these essential elements, which is why Ten Worst lists are often padded with things like ATTACK OF THE KILLER TOMATOES -- an immediate disqualification because it's obvious just from the title that they didn't really mean it -- and why the best of the worst (if you follow), like PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE, REEFER MADNESS, GLENN OR GLENDA and MARS NEEDS WOMEN have become such classics. And it's also, to get back to the point, as has been previously stated, why the CANNED FILM FESTIVAL isn't quite making it.

The first offering in the series, TERROR OF TINY TOWN, is a sort of cult movie legend, in that it's, to the best of this humble critic's knowledge, the only musical Western ever made using a cast composed entirely of midgets. This is certainly unusual, and Lord knows the film never won any prizes for production or writing, but after the initial shock of seeing midgets riding Shetland ponies, which wears off rather quickly, as there aren't any normal-sized people provided for contrast, the thing becomes just another poorly made genre film, and the overall effect is slightly weird, rather than funny or awful. Again, this violates the rule of seriousness -- it's impossible to believe that anyone set out to make a midget Western with any sort of legitimate intent.

The second offering was so immediately forgettable that I am unable to recall either its title or whatever semblance of a plot it might have had; the third, SKI FEVER, was just one of the many ski party/beach party movies made in the early to mid sixties, no better or worse than any of the others, and I am at a loss to explain how it was ever considered for this collection. The fourth, however, at least indicated a nice try. SANTA CLAUS CONQUERS THE MARTIANS is, by anybody's standards, a pretty lousy movie, highlighted by the first appearance of a 12 year old Pia Zadora in full Martian makeup -- a triumph of cinematic achievement, I'm sure you'll agree -- and had it been the first movie aried, I would have thought that it boded well for the program. As it was, though, it simply wasn't strong enough to carry the fourth airing slot -- by the fourth week, the series should have been settling down to some serious bad movie-showing, not starting to warm up. SANTA CLAUS CONQUERS THE MARTIANS is a good awful movie, not a great one, and by the fourth week of any series we should be expecting at least the beginnings of great things.

It's been rumored that upcoming Festival selctions will include ROBOT MONSTER -- one I don't consider to be very good, but a perennial faviorite with connessieurs of the genre -- and THEY SAVED HITLER'S BRAIN -- an absolute gem, completely indescribable and absolutely hysterical, in both senses of the word -- so perhaps there's be some hope for the program, were it not for the way in which the movies are presented, which is the second major problem with the series. WOR, not content with simply showing the movies, or possibly afraid that the movies couldn't stand by themselves -- a not unreasonable fear, all things considered -- apparently decided to liven things up a bit by employing Laraine Newman and a supporting cast of the sort of comedians not generally seen anywhere short of amateur nights in suburban dinner theaters to enact really killing little skits at odd moments throughout the program. And not just any old unrelated skits, mind you, but skits with a plot, based around the idea that Laraine and her mother (who, God being merciful, we never get to see) run a movie theater in a small town, which, for reasons that are at least nonsensical and possibly suicidal, shows only terrible movies while employing such clever promotional devices as turning up the air-conditioning during SANTA CLAUS and renting out blankets. Even if any of this were funny -- which, i swear on my poor dead grandmother's grave, it is not -- even if the talents of the cast exceeded the talents of the actors in the films shown -- and I ought to go on record here as being an early admirer of Ms. Newman's dating back to her days on the original SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE. SHe has a certain anorexic appeal and a flair for the peculiar that I've always found quite charming, and I wish her nothing but the best, but she's drowning in a sea of the soppiest performances ever committed to videotape -- even if the inclusion of the skits did not force the cutting up of the movies themselves (unlike most series movies, which run for two hours, the Festival movies clock in at a mere hour and a half), usually destroying whatever semblance of storyline the poor films had to begin with, this would still be an alarming stupid way to do things, because the skits rely on constant reminders that the movies we are viewing are bad movies, which in turn kills a big part of the pleasure of the movies. A large portion of the fun of this sort of film is the sense that one has discovered something hitherto unknown and unique, had unearthed qualities of humor or ludicrousness or awfulness or whatever beyond the scope of mere mortals. A terrible movie is something about which one tells one's friends in superior tones ("You'll never believe what I saw last night about 4 in the morning"), and the knowledge of which one hordes like a small trust fund. To be told repeatedly -- and overbearingly -- by a troupe of deservedly unknown actors that the film one is watching is a bad film is to have this sense of righteous discovery and accomplishment completely spoiled. It's a grave tactical error on the part of WOR and it seems likely to ruin what ought to have been a fantastic break in the usual dreary summer programming schedule.

So you see, I think, why I'm in such a miserable mood these days. As a purely personal aside, and by way of warning, as an addition to the general uproarious tenor of the times I will, within the next six weeks or so, and for an entire set of tolerably arcane reasons, be moving to Wuomissing, Pennsylvania, a place, I have been solemnly assured, that has access to neither movie theaters, cable television nor video rental shops. Stay tuned for future issues, wherein I will undoubtedly be reporting on the latest visual advances in the arts of lawn-mowing and barbecue-building. Shoudl be quite a thing. Really.

LATE NEWS:

*OPTION magazine has moved to 2345 Westwood Blvd. #2, Los Angeles, CA 90064.

*WALLS OF GENIUS have broken up. Their cassettes are no longer available directly from the group, but distributors are being sought.

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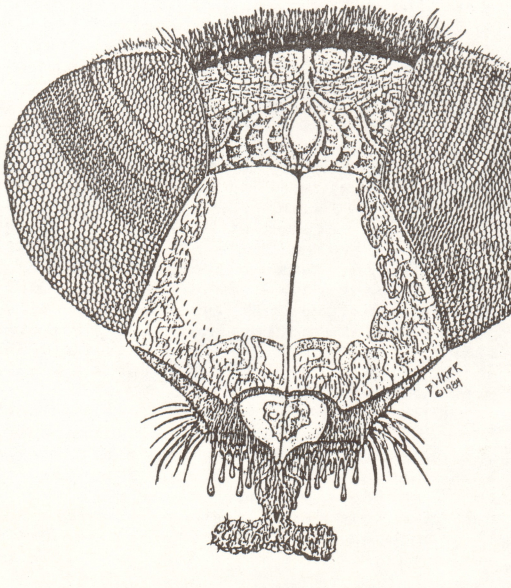


Penned In

by Shane Williams

The message for today is a spew of vitriol aimed at all the hypocrisy and lameness that ticks me off, from my not so ivory tower.

It's hard to know where to start. I don't know if your city is having the same type of revival of so-called "classic" rock that Kansas City is, but I would be surprised if it isn't. Of the two rock stations one plays it 24 hours a day and one mixes it in with AOR, devoting lunch hours to the classics of the 60s and 70s and broadcasting a nationwide tribute or retrospective every weekend. Now I grew up on 60a and 70s rock , and came to love the early 60s and 50s stuff that was before my time. In most cases I'd rather hear oldies than the latest by Sting or groups like Loverboy or movie sound track pap a la John Parr, but it can really get to me when I start to think about all of the new music going unheard because of it. And what really gets me mad are some of the advertisements found on this format -- like a newly opened bar/club assuring that you won't hear any "raunchy" music, just classic rock and roll. What they're trying to do is build a clientele of moderately successful people in their 30's too unsophisticated to be Yuppies and too scared to mingle with teenagers. But however OK that capitalist goal is it sure sounds hypocritical and blasphemous to try to seperate the classics from raunch. I thought rock and roll was and is raunchy pop music with a big beat. All those type of ads is is a not-so-subtle code that their patrons won't have to worry about bumping into any punk rockers, and probably it excludes negros also, as funk also equals raunch of a sort.

Everybody ought to know by now that I consider myself a punk rocker for better or worse, but I don't shun reading mainstream rock mags like ROLLING STONE. But when they go out of their way to hint that the bands they ignored for years and that they now do features on were cruddy when they ignored them and are good now my blood boils. Two cases in point: Simple Minds started out as one of the first post-punk bands way back in '78. Their first LP, LIFE IN A DAY came out in early '79 and in my book it was their best to date. The next album, which followed shortly, was called REAL TO REAL CACOPHONY -- leave it to ROLLING STONE to make the remark "the album lives up to its name and then some", making it seem Simple Minds were a thrash band or even industrial, when actually it was similar to their current material, except in those days more thought went into the lyrics and the riffs and less into the gloss and the dance beat. Now I don't expect Jim Kerr to admit his best releases are behind him whether he thinks so or not, but it would be nice to hear him admit that the change in their sound is based on a desire for money and popularity, not fruits of musical maturity.

Even more sacreligious is ROLLING STONE's leading of the Husker Du boys into completely reviling punk by quoting the lyrics and pinning them down on their present day overview. This isn't the first interview where Bob Mould has acted as if he no longer derives any inspiration from hardcore though he still seems to produce other people's records in that vein, but by quoting him the lyrics to "Metal Circus" they get Bob to finish up the interview saying "Sorry hardcore. Sorry punk rock. I don't believe in that shit." I find it hard to believe he would be so busy covering up punk rock like it was dogshit if he still depended on his few thousand original fans to make his living at music. It's easy for Husker Du, darlings of "college radio" (not to be confused with radio at colleges that has true free form and alternative programming) to vilify former fans, but most of the groups playing comparatively advanced hardcore cum hard rock cum pop can't afford that luxury, since it's still the punks that are buying their LPs and going to their shows. No, I guess Husker Du are happy now that the same ilk who played Cat Stevens in the 70s are playing Husker Du in the 80s.

On a much more personal level -- what am I supposed to think about a band, one who supported my musical interests by taping me all of their output and other stuff they thought I needed to hear, a group who sent me their zines back when they still had time to do one, a group who wrote me and said they enjoyed getting my letters -- what am I supposed to think about a group I love both for musical and other reasons shunning me now, refusing to do an interview with me and not even wanting to discuss the matter further because I jocularly declared my lust for the female member of the group, knowing full well she was married to a guy in the group? I mean, all I did was write the dude she is married to and tell him how sexy she is. Picture me being married to, say, Patti Smith. And a buddy writes and raves about her talent and looks and tells me he wants to steal her but meanwhile could I set up a mail interview. Should I get jealous?? Hey, I'm in prison, and your wife is now a public figure of the sort probably lusted after by lots of guys who don't even appreciate the music like I do. The only thing I can think of is that this band is now so coked up they are truly paranoid, or they believe all convicts are dangerous and they see me getting out and trying to steal the babe. A big ha-ha. Yeah sure I'd share her with him if he was into that sort of thing -- I'm liberated baby, I'm no puritan -- but I'm not into bumming out that tiny percentage of the populace making the kind of music I need to survive, especially the ones who recognize my needs and were only too willing to provide. Chalk one up for a major communications breakdown. It ain't the first friends I've lost for being brash and/or crude, but it hurts when musical acquaintances hit the relatively big time and now I can't even get an interview.

Back to a rock personality I don't know. What about John Phillips (MAMAS AND PAPAS main man) telling his story of drug abuse in the tones of a contrite 5 year old who burned himself on a stove. This fucker spent the night in an MCC (a federal holding jail in a big city) and describes the awful people there (whom he avoided like the plague while in) and how horrified and disconsolate he was to have wound up at that low ebb. Somehow I find it impossible to believe he wasn't already dealing with the counterfeitors, the defrauders, and the bank robbers in his years and years as a pusher and an addict. Back in the 60s in his love-in days I'm sure he knew plenty of bikers like the ones who were infamous at Altamont. Was he this full of loathing for criminals in those days or did he glorify outlaws like most of his generation? His whining biography is totally hypocritical and proves him to be totally lame, as scabrous as those he shuns. Besides which his creative juices dried up completely on drugs. I suppose the moral of the story is that anyone who claims their drugstore Dilaudids were superior to heroin is an all-around fool.

Now on to someone who really matters: Steve Albini. Yep, I'm naming his name now. When I wrote "Self-Examination", another piece which lambasted him, I kept it anonymous. But time to get to the facts. Steve wrote a rant for FORCED EXPOSURE about a mag called PURE. He claimed it featured "The Real Thing" -- child porn and the glorification of mass murderers. What caused me to challenge him was not his taste in reading material, but the snide tones he took to imply his superiority to Death Rock chicks who look like the Bride of Frankenstein but who would shudder in horror at this "real thing". But so what? I don't require my women to watch SPK's video of an autopsy to prove they're worthy of my attentions, nor need they laud acts of infibulation, necrophilia, pedophilia or scatophagy. What I look for is, do they like some decent tunes and the sharing of sexual bliss. OK, so Steve follows up in the next FE with a letter telling how people wrote him to tell him how despicable he is. One guy described his piece as "the most reprehensible piece of fanzine journalism ever" (an award I give to any and all ravings about Billy Bragg). Or else, Steve claims, people were begging for the address for PURE. He says no way is he giving out the address, he doesn't want his source for the real thing being harassed or turned in. But maybe Steve is so hung up on being one of the elite (I know I am) that he just doesn't want to share. Well, ladies and gentlemen, you are reading FACTSHEET FIVE, where we publish facts. Here's a fact: PURE, PO Box 14297, Chicago, IL 60614-0297. I figure if you are the type of person who read this far you won't bother writing PURE unless you honestly are interested in the subject matter and would like to get a copy. We at FF (right Mike?) don't advocate harassing people for publishing anything. [Right -- MG]

Which brings me to my last gripe. I've been informed that my very favorite rock critic, R. Meltzer, so hip he no longer even listens to rock, quit writing for one of LA's weekly entertainment publications because of the inclusion of a column he

considered racist and sexist. Boy does this hurt. Not just Meltzer, but a few others supposedly jumped ship from the LA READER to the LA WEEKLY because of FINAL CUT, a column by Stuart Goldman. When I saw a sample it really surprised me, because the damned thing is in verse -- how can anyone object to verse of any type? I'm almost afraid that Meltzer just didn't want any other irreverent jewboys competing with him. But Richard, don't panic, this guy's writing still can't hold a candle to yours (see Meltzer's stuff int he November SPIN). Please don't start being a hypocrite. It's bad enough that you've turned your back on rock and roll, don't turn your back on the art of offensiveness, the cynical self-expressive style you've mastered. Let others use it too, Richard. You know darned well that Goldman ain't into "ism" any more than you or I are.

LATE ADDENDUM: Here I am acting like Mr. Cool to show up my arch rival for the title of nerd with the most savoir faire when I find out that the guy who does PURE already got busted. He was on tour with WHITEHOUSE, the world's most psychotic (right out of Kraft-Ebbing) act. I guess he was selling PURE right at the gigs. So don't blame me if it's the FBI who picks up the mail at that PO Box now.

KXCV is the station I listen to because of the problems I've been having with my tapes and player. Those problems are at least partially rectified and of course anyone putting out any music is urged to submit copies to FACTSHEET FIVE for Mike to review or pass on to me for review and listening. But if any labels or individuals would like to submit their music to a local alternative radio show send it to Static in Stereo, KXCV, Wells Hall, NWMSU - Maryville, MO, 64468. Tell 'em I sent you -- the DJs have been real cool about playing my numerous requests and I'd like to see them get more good music. Thanx.

FANZINES

10 YEARS ON #6 ($1 in IRCs or IMO from Juma, 35 Aylesbury Road, London SE17 2EQ, UK): One of those small interview laden Brit zines with also a million contacts for cheap tapes by all kinds of punk bands that aren't big enough to have vinyl. Though some of the bands have no doubt also been mentioned in MAX R'N'R you're going to find out a lot more about Brit punks if you send for this than if you just read the scene reports in MRR. This ish has The Sect, Shrapnel, DOWN SYNDROME, and DECADENCE WITHIN.

BUZZ #8 (308C Butler Sq., 100 N. Sixth St., Minneapolis, MN 55403): One of those music newspapers that are a giveaway in their home towns but probably expensive via the mails. June '86 has good articles on Charlie Pickett (Florida trasnplant to Mpls.), Suburbs, Neville Bros., Alex Chilton and other stuff. Not a bad mix. I guess Minneapolis really is a pretty cool place musicly because BOSTON ROCK and SEATTLE ROCK are rarely this good -- but then this could be a fluke issue.

DAMAGED #2 (send stamps to Chris Paul Francz, PO Box 317, Buckhill Falls, PA 18323): Somewhat similar to the first issue of PARADOX. Chris prints lyrics to some of his favorite songs and does drawings to accompany them. I think the style here is chiaroscuro -- or his style uses that for its effect -- a little bit similar to Pettibon art. Chris also does zine and record reviews and admits to being mentally ill and even though he seems sane I have a feeling he's institutionalized or has been so write him and check out this powerful little zine.

DEMON VOID #4/DARK FANTASY (Jim Kazanjian, 902 N. Whittier Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210): DEMON VOID was a subsidiary to SUB-9, a skate horror zine, consisting of dreams and psychic/magic ramblings. Too onerous a job, it will be consolidated with SUB-9. Submit your nightmares and psychic experiences to Jim at the above address. And if you've already sent him money expect DARK FANTASY,a little book of poetry and art he put out in a plain black cover. I'm not all that much into poetry but his seems reasonably effective -- his art sure is. Write to this address for the essential SUB-9 too.

DRACULINA #2 ($3.25 from PO Box 115, Moro, IL 62067): Unfairly reviewed as sexist. I have to admit it's overpriced and that the artwork which is a central portion (Draculina is a comic strip within the mag of the same name) is not too great, but the so-called sexist part (photos of various softcore B movie actresses) is pretty cool, as are the interviews. Issue 2 has part of Jack Stevenson 's interview with John Waters that also appears in PANDEMONIUM and an interview with the writer & producer of the first (?) X-rated horror/gore movie called DRILLER. Pretty much a must for fans of the genre.

FLESH (Stamps from Kevin Mitchell, 6907 Barry Rd., Tampa, FL 33614): Mainly listings of contacts connected with industrial music but also some pertinent data and provocative photos to give proper ambience. This is where I got PURE's address.

FRIEND ZINE (50¢ & 1 stamp from 5818 Templegate, Houston, TX 77066): Put out by a real young teenage dude totally into positive punk. He tells us what he thinks about and what he's into and reviews records and does short interviews. Quite a funny one with Hickoids who were a little playful with his earnestness. He's got a buddy who puts out CORN ZINE -- together they're in the Mellow Cats. Like I said, support young punks.

FUAD FRENZY'S FEAR FANZINE #1 (50¢ & stamps from PO Box 5508, Los Alamitos, CA 90721): A newie from a young enthusiast of gore and splatter films. He also has pix of bands and prints some reports of zines he trades with. Has some reviews for obscure teen stuff out of Orange County, home of Americna hardcore. Support young people doing something constructive, write and order this zine.

MATTER ($12/6 issues from Box 1060, Hoboken, NJ 07030): For something this slick in appearance it is still a zine and has not turned into a TROUSER PRESS that will fold for lack of bucks. Beleive Elizabeth will keep on keeping on, and anyone who isn't super impatient for regular issues should get this. Not as catty as FORCED EXPOSURE and more robust than OPTION this is a deservedly popular rag. Besides, Albini does the endpieces and he can't be quite as self-indulgent as in what he writes for his buddies at FE.

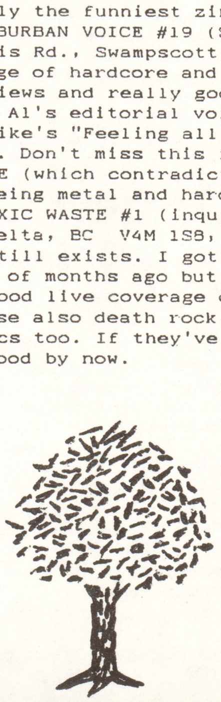
ONE SOLUTION #6 ($1.75 from 187 Neville Park Blvd., Toronto, ONT M4E 3P7, CANADA): My favorite Canadian zine except for when a new HIDE comes out, this is like SUBURBAN VOICE or XXX -- mainly speedcore and death metal coverage with decent interviews and great photos. The original "Fish or Die" zine (unless you count the various Stepe bros. zines of yore). This issue has DOWN SYNDROME, DOA< COC, SNFU, NECROS and SACRIFICE.

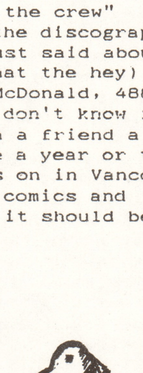
PARADOX #3 (50¢ & stamps from 676 Pleasant St., Worcester, MA 01602): Once again the art is the high point here, pretty damn high. Yurus own drawings are very strong stuff, Carrie has good stuff here and there, even a macabre fold-out by guest artist Lynne. The rest is a mixture of poetry and reviews and news of the locale. Each issue adds stuff. A growing concern.

SICK TEEN #911 (ha ha) (Couple of stamps from Norbie, PO Box 918, Green Bay, WI 54305): This zine is closest to the old style jam-packed tiny print punk zine that those of us reading them back in the 70s knew and loved. Though Norb's own band is pretty noisy he seems to prefer the melodic late 70s punk bands like the Ramones or Dickies, but not only are his reviews a good guide to that type of stuff but his interviews comments and paste-ups are hilarious. Probably the funniest zine around bar none.

SUBURBAN VOICE #19 ($4/3 issues from Al Quint, 56 Lewis Rd., Swampscott, MA 01907): Mainly coverage of hardcore and metal records with decent interviews and really good photos. Similar to xXx except Al's editorial voice is a little more "lefty" than Mike's "Feeling all right with the crew" stance. Don't miss this issue with the discography of WIRE (which contradicts what I just said about this being metal and hardcore but what the hey)

TOXIC WASTE #1 (inquiry to Sue McDonald, 4883 8A Ave, Delta, BC V4M 1S8, CANADA): I don't know if this still exists. I got my copy via a friend a couple of months ago but it might be a year or two old. Good live coverage of what goes on in Vancouver punkwise also death rock. Plenty of comics and graphics too. If they've kept going it should be real good by now.





Curmudgeon Corner

by Garry De Young

Today's great disgrace is the medical industry, an industry which ruthlessly waxes wealthy through victimizing those caught in the unfortunate web of illness or injury.

Two years ago I had a heart attack and went to the local Spencer Medical Associates for a checkup. I was referred to Dr. Ed Kelly.

The first question I was asked was, "How are you going to pay for this?"

The first question should have been, "What is your ailment?"

I presented my Medicare card and my Blue Cross card.

Dr. Kelly told me he needed $75 on the barrelhead. I didn't have the $75. In fact, I can't think of many people, except the overpaid doctors, who carry that much money around in their billfolds. About the only time I have that much money is on payday on the way to the post office to pay the rent, the utilities and to buy groceries.

I told Dr. Kelly I didn't have the $75 -- which was the truth. He then told me he wasn't running a charity. I told him I wasn't asking for charity (although I see nothing wrong with charity when needed), that I paid for the Medicare and the Blue Cross.

He then told me that there were a lot of good Christian businessmen in town, that I should borrow the $75 from one of them.

I told him that this suggestion was insulting.

Dr. Kelly then told me that he didn't have to take me as a patient and that he would not do so.

I told Dr. Kelly that he shouldn't be practicing medicine, that his license should be revoked. I then proceeded to Small Claims court and filed a suit against Dr. Kelly for denying me medical care although I presented him with the Medicare card and the Blue Cross card.

The Clay County court ruled in favor of Dr. Kelly claiming I had libelled him, issuing a judgment against me for $2000.

I contend that there is a principle here which has been violated, the principle of Fourteenth Amendment protection.

Think about it. If I run a restaurant I must serve everyone who comes through to door. Be he an anarchist, a Republican, a Communist, a White racist, a Black homosexual. It makes no difference how I feel about the person whom I must serve and I am required to provide equal service to every customer since I am licensed by the state to serve the public.

Medical doctors also are licensed by the state and medical schools, hospitals, ambulance services, clinics and doctors are subsidized in one way or another by both state and federal governments.

If the equal protection provisions apply to restaurant owners they should apply even more stringently to medical doctors, to all phases of medical care, including dental, eye and ear care.

I have asked the Spencer Agency for the Aged (I am a very young 63) to initiate policies which will put pressures upon the medical industry, beginning with the demand that before patients are harassed about the financial arrangements that their medical needs be first met. If these medical practitioners refuse to do this they will be subjected to malpractice suits for contributing to the worry and anxiety of the patient.

Secondly, I have asked the Agency for the Aged to require holistic medical practices since the human body is not compartmentalized as is the medical industry, but is a total unit.

As an example I pointed out that if I have a decaying tooth in my mouth coupled with gum disease that the toxins which are produced by these ailments are released into the blood stream and that these toxins can affect other organs such as the heart, kidneys and lungs. Therefore it is important that dental care be included with total medical care.

I am blind in my left eye and going blind in my right eye. This is because of macular degeneration which means that the tiny blood vessels in the retina of my eye are not receiving an adequate blood supply and this is due to my arteriosclerosis. I mention this because it illustrates how all parts of the body are interrelated, including the teeth, eyes, heart and lungs.

This was brought home to me again with my recent bout with pneumonia. When you have a heart condition your lungs do not receive enough oxygen and are not operating at full capacity.

This means that if for some reason your resistance is lowered (through overwork, stress, extreme heat or extreme cold) you are highly susceptible to infection. In my case I came down with pneumonia, complete with a fever, the chills and malaria like shakes. Normally I bounce back in a few days but this time I got weaker and weaker and finally went to the doctor where I received medication.

However, although the arteriosclerosis was a contributing factor to the pneumonia, the pneumonia placed additional stress on the heart. I mention this to show how circular and interrelated all the body functions are.

All of us are aware of psychological stress and how this stress affects the body. That is, everyone understands this except medical doctors. At least that is how it seems.

In my case, and I am certain many others feel the same, my great worry when I go to the doctor is not about the disease or the injury. My great worry is about the expense, about how quickly I can get a bill for $5000 and be totally wiped out. This worry definitely contributes to the severity of the disease.

We may be tempted to ask why it is that the medical doctors do not take this financial worry into consideration when dealing with their patients. I will tell you why this is.

First of all, medical doctors are trained to become insensitive to the pain and discomfort of others. I can remember years ago when one of my daughters received a deep cut above her eye and I had to rush her to the doctor. The doctor asked if I wanted to watch him sew up the wound. I accepted the invitation.

As the doctor began injecting anesthetic into the wound I became dizzy and nauseated and told him I'd like to go into the waiting room. The doctor of course proceeded with his procedures and soon Susan was riding home with me int he car.

The point is that it is this very training (and I recognize its necessity) which creates the insensitivity to pain and discomfort and transfers to a total disregard for the financial plight of the patient.

Secondly, medical doctors recieve such outrageous sums of money for their services that they simply cannot conceive what it is like to not have several hundred dollar bills in their pocket and huge bank accounts. The average salary for a doctor is $100,000 a year and specialists receive salaries in the range of a million dollars a year.

There is another tactic used by doctors, those in whom we place our trust, which is unsavory and vengeful. This is the practice of turning over your account to a collection agency.

Collection agencies charge between 50% and 75% to collect a bill.

Recently I received such a bill from the Merchants and Medical COllection Service here in Spencer. It was for $200 I owe my dentist, the balance due on a bill which was for more than $300 for three tooth extractions.

I fully intend to pay this bill and had discussed with my wife the possibility of sending him $50 this payday. That is, until the collection agency notice came.

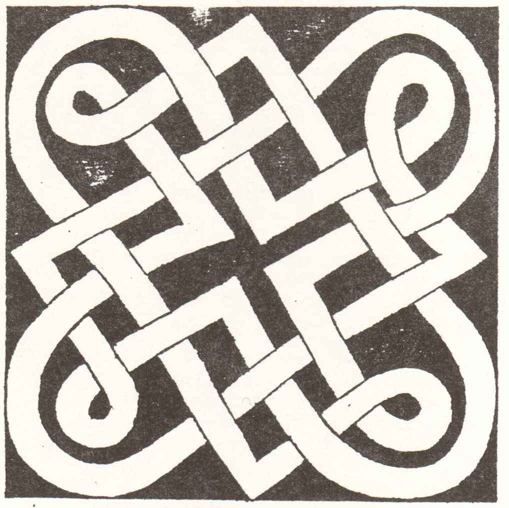
When I thought about it I realized that this "friendly dentist" was offering the collection agency $100 to collect the $200. Why, I asked myself, didn't the dentist simply offer to settle the bill for a hundred bucks and let it go at that? Had he done that I would have felt friendly towards him and he would have had a customer for life, complete with the rest of the family.

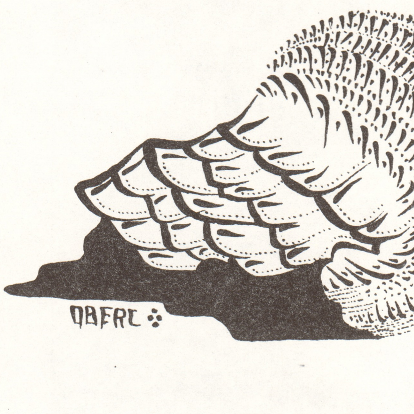
Now, I am not alone in being in financial difficulty. The largest banks in Iowa are having financial difficulties as are almost all farmers and many small businesses. The only survivors appear to be the medical businesses and the huge cartels such as Cargill, which even gets free advertising on National Public Radio for "sponsoring with a grant" The Prairie Home Companion, as so clearly pointed out by Jack Saunders.

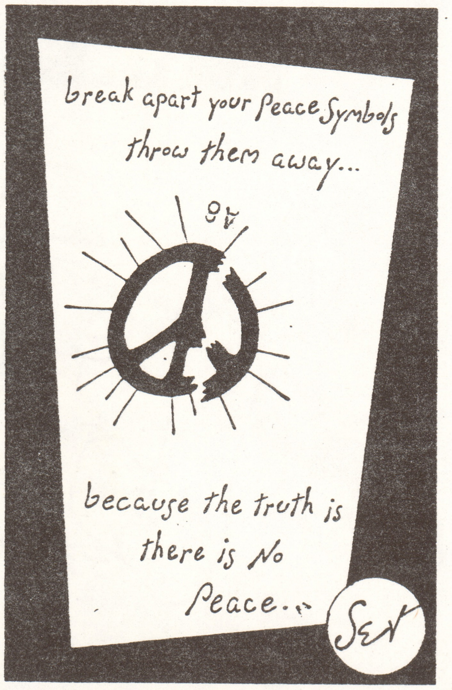
I have asked the Spencer Agency for the Aged to provide the legal counsel for all senior citizens being harassed by collection agencies for medical and dental bills. The rationale for malpractice suits is that the dentist offered the collection agency this incentive without first making that offer to the patient. This is a responsibility of

the doctor or dentist and if not made in good faith to the patient can only be construed as an act of malice and vengeance against the patient.

Medical care for our citizens is far too important to be left in the hands of the medical doctors, the dentists, the eye doctors, the hearing aid people and the rest of the money-grubbing medical industry which exploit's people's misfortunes in order to be able to accumulate money. It must be pointed out that medical care should be a service provided to the citizens through taxes and that it is not at all to be considered a lucrative financial investment.







Notes of a Neon Gringo

by Kerry Thornley

"Then, too, there was Leary -- another fool who tried to tell people how to be happier. Look what happened to him: he ended up in a business partnership with G. Gordon Liddy!" --Nutman Bolton

Although sheltered and frail and all that, Phil Boatright wasn't afraid to stare at life's darkness -- nor to converse with people who scared me. Once he informed me that according to a Bourbon Street barker of his acquaintance anyone with enough bread could, if they wanted, buy in a girl who worked at one of the strip joints -- for the purpose of murdering her.

What I remember most about Phil, though, is a story that got back to me many years after we went our diverse ways. In 1968, District Attorney Jim Garrison, suspecting me of involvement in the John Kennedy assassination, sent out investigators to question all my former friends that were still in New Orleans. Just after leaving the French Quarrter and arriving in Arlington, Virginia, in December of 1963, I had sent my poet-friend a letter containing a line to the effect that, although I'd not yet pissed on J.F.K.'s grave, I planned as much in the near future.

Here I am, angry with my landlady who, in addition to what amounts to the theft of my $25.00 cleaning deposit -- or in lieu of it actually -- wants me to pay her a $5 late fee. She reduced it, planning to go back to life on the streets. This time, though, to keep working and to keep trying to find a new pad. A calculated risk -- which reminds me, I met a friend of Cid's named Steve Bowen who is associated with a band called Calculated Risk. One of the most likeable talkative people I've met in years.

Cid, I guess, thinks she's going to make it with me -- not unless she stops playing games. These people think I'm some kind of masochist who enjoys being lied about, I guess. Either that, or they're more paranoid than I am. If people, after all this time, still express the opinion that I'm talking in cant or expressing myself with cryptic gestures, how in Hell can I believe what they tell me about others?

Anyway, as long as she is working for Ronald Reagan I'd have to be an idiot to want to go to bed with her. Sexually, these Republicans are the most sado-masochistic, sickest bunch of bastards I've ever encountered.

If and when Cid ever comes off all her intelligence community games, then we'll get it together, if she makes the first move.

There's a whole contingent in Atlanta that thinks my function is to serve as an assassination decoy so they can get rid of their enemies with documents Nixon got the CIA to okay without reading. I'm supposed to be harassed by Devil's Advocates according to these morons -- so they can continue to destroy the feeble remnants of the Constitution, when actually their function is to help me identify Viet Nam war criminals. My suspicion is they are being conned by the war criminals themselves. That is a situation that will be corrected. If they are going to serve genocidal racists they are going to be entirely conscious of their crimes so that when the time comes they can be held accountable.

If I could get Tracy Barnes into a court of law at this time, I've been told that in the estimation of lawyers, I could sue him for nine hundred and forty thousand dollars -- for experimenting on me since Oswald and I volunteered for the CIA project, etc. There are people who were simply dosed once with LSD that have sued the government. The problem in my case of course is that Barnes is so powerful that getting a case against him for a court of law is impossible.

That doesn't change the fact, though, that I don't owe that little bastard or his henchmen a damned thing. They owe me. And as long as they pretend that the situation is the opposite, I'll sabotage them every chance I get -- regardless of the results.

Yesterday I was in another situation where someone tried to stir up a divisive argument about sex and page 35. Because I refused to cooperate -- since I'm not an errand boy in a brothel, contrary to their illusions -- I was subjected to asbestos poisoning. People who cooperate with what I call the Gould Foundation are breeding scabs on their noses. There is no substitute for organizing. I'm not here to help people who are too lazy to organize. My political activities and my writing and publishing -- particularly in relation to my book. I'm not going to be used. I'm not going to "pay bills". I'm not going to be subjected to political propaganda and manipulation day in and day out. I don't owe a damned thing to anyone but the Vietnamese people. And in that area I'm making restitution in every way possible. I've written my book. I've circulated and continue to circulate it as widely as possible.

Anyone who is spying on me who isn't helping in the tasks related to that endeavor, is either useless, or, worse, obstructing. I'm not going to tolerate it. I may be bugged with microphones and hidden cameras and surrounded by agents, etc. -- that doesn't prevent me from responding as I choose, though.

That, however, is also why I don't organize. I'm spied on by Nixon with hidden video cameras. I'm bugged for sound by the NSA and/or Kissinger. Maybe everyone is in the same position. I doubt it; I could be wrong, though -- in which case someone needs to tell me. Because in that case I'm wasting my time with an obsolete strategy.

My hunch is that most people who listen to what I say are not being spied on themselves. If they are, then the situation seems hopeless.

Within the intelligence community there is a lot of electronic surveillance such as I'm subjected to. My understanding, though, is that my audience extends beyond the intelligence community. In any case, no matter what the conditions, no leader is going to make you free. Making people free is not the function of political leaders even when that is their sincere intention. The mechanism generated by coercion cannot lead to freedom. LeFevre convinced me of this much years ago and I've never found a convincing argument against his theory.

Power can only lead to more power. It cannot even remain at a given point; it must always expand until it collapses for lack of economic support -- i.e., for having taxed its subjects to the point where they were no longer producing -- or until it is overthrown by another power. That's why taking control of an empire and trying to reform humanity is such a dead-end trip.

Only massive non-cooperation defeats power without generating new power. For that to happen, there has to be preparation. What kind of preparation depends on conditions. Until I understand the exact conditions I cannot recommend precise strategies -- which I don't feel obligated to devise anyway -- but which I enjoy as an avocation.

In any case, I don't need these "stinking bastard" games and I won't take them. I am not your leader. I am not your messiah. I'm a man who needs your help -- not your opposition. If you expose me, expect sabotage, because I am not oppressing you and I don't owe you a thing.

QWN: "In the early nineties, when the Society of Jesus was abolished by Papal decree, rumours abounded that the most fanatic Jesuits went underground and formed the legendary Cryptocracy of Christ -- known more commonly as the Cryptochris.

"Since by then Christianity was a fringe religion, a mere historical curiousity of scattered nut cults, the Cryptochris was the most powerful organization in all Christiandom."

Come to think of it, I don't need very much help either. Too much help by too many individuals with conflicting interpretations of the problem is one of my worst problems. What I need is noninterference, except for a list of Vietnam war criminals and a list of absentee owners of land in the Third World -- to prove or disprove my hunch that they are one and the same.

Other things I could settle with one good attorney and no interference.

Well, maybe not.

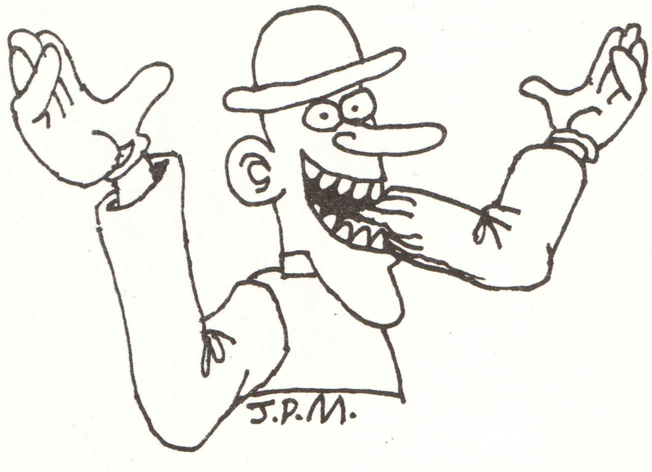
I guess the extent of the power of the technocracy in RFK's indictments were an indication of their partial identity -- must also be considered. Maybe I'll need a lawyer and an army.

And then, no interference -- except the inevitable opposition of enemies, of course. At this point, I feel as if there is a whole menagerie of intruders wandering in and out of my living room and my bedroom at all hours of the day and night. At least the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto and the Japanese in bathhouses have proven it is possible to extend the courtesy of theoretical privacy. I don't understand why Americans, of all people, cannot refrain from being rudely intrusive.

I ceased being a Quaker-like person and became violent over exactly this issue, in California in 1978. That was when, after a year of advancing every argument and plea I could think of, I decided some people you just have to kill in order to change their behavior from that of peeping through someone's bedroom window uninvited and then making disapproving noises on top of that!

Someone should explain to Bob Black, et al, that once in Miami in Elisabeth something park with the lower left hand corner of the sign broken off I drank a large Mountain Dew and ate a bag of potato crisps I found there. Afterwards I was used to kill communist anarchists. That's one of the reasons I no longer trust "Magick" or "voting".

[AEditor's note: Here ends Kerry's book NOTES OF A NEON GRINGO, which has been serialized in FF over the past several years. Watch for the collected edition and the start of a new serialization in our next issue.]



Music

As always, reviews signed (MG) are by the editor; reviews signed (SW) are by Shane Williams.

76% UNCERTAIN, "Nothing But Love Songs" ($5 from Shmegma Records, c/o Mike Hammond, 556 Broadway, Bridgeport, CT 06606): There is only one thing wrong with this album: it's not long enough. Their first album, "Estimated Monkey Time", had quite a few more songs, and even though they were faster I think it's longer than the approximately 20 minutes here. But that's a small quibble since it's distributed at a reasonable price by direct mail order and all of the songs are cooler than shit. And these guys are trying to get people to think -- don't they know that's not cool? -- hey, as they would say, "No Way". "Never really were united/Let's divide and strengthen our stand/the ultimate power may not be a healing hand." Here is the voice of a punk band that's continued on through all of the trends. And even if they think punk is more than just music -- and maybe they're right -- this album rocks out! Not metal core, just hard hard rock. (LP/SW)

*****

ACK-ACK!, "Automatic" ($4 from Office Records, PO Box 2081, Station A, Champaign, IL 61820): This 5-piece group has a light, very polished sound that would go fairly well on late-night radio, but isn't likely to turn any heads. From their liner notes it's obvious that a lot of sweat went into making this music, which is a shame, since the finished product really doesn't seem exceptional in any way. Background music that doesn't encourage one to listen closely. (EP/MG)

*****

AMOR FATI, "Rock n' Roll" (Flesh Records, PO Box 5040, N. Bergen, NJ 07047): What a laugh: my fave song by Amor Fati ever and its one in which he makes some big noise and ridicules everything rock and rtoll stands for. The other 3 cuts are back to his unique romantic industrialism that I'm already well into. I'd have to say that "Economics 101, Part 2" makes this his best release ever. Reminds me of Asbestos Rockpyle's similar diatribes against punk hypocrisy in which the music gets you carried away with punk glory. You see Amor Fati doesn't try to sound like generic punk rock when he is bitching. No, his music is the art damage grunge core that transcends punk while wallowing in it. A really cool song, but the whole EP is good. His regular style is no letdown. One cut is a via-mail collaboration with Britain's Nails or Christ. Cover art is a prime porno photo -- I saw the same one in FLESH magazine though. (EP/SW)

*****

ANTI-SCRUNTI FACTION, "Damsels in Distress" ($5 from Flipside Records, PO Box 363, Whittier, CA 90608): Remember the Wrecks? All girl punkers from Reno who insisted that "punk is an attitude". Well, these girls (and one guy) project that, so much so that I'm sure that is why Hudley at Flipside loves them so. Their lyrics are either typical "Hate Reagan's policies" or less typical "boys are usually screwed up so don't put out for 'em", but they're delivered with such enthusiasm that they're actually quite infectious. The music is slow-fast thrash with some cool bass lines. Though all the lyrics are serious the bands photos show them goofing around and grinning. I'd really like to see them live and probably wouldn't even feel guilty for lusting after them. (LP/SW)

*****

BARNICLE CHOIR, "85 BC" ($3 from Warpt West Music, PO Box 8045, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-8045): Excellent lyrics that are somewhat detracted from by the quality of the recording. Led by Gary Gray's vocals, BC produce a sound that is occasionally turgid but usually upbeat, overlaid by thoughts more usually found in anti-authoritarian zines than on tape. Try the lyrics from "You're Gonna Crawl" for a sample: "We're on our knees/We give it all/We suck their cock/We watch the clock/We want our food/The Keeper's gone/You want the truth?/Well you're a pawn". Suburbs, cancer, racism, pollution and other once-fashionable concerns come in for similar scathing treatment. The folk music of the nineties? (tape/MG)

*****

THE BONELESS ONES, "Skate For the Devil" ($6 from Boner Records, PO Box 2081, Berkeley, CA 94702): A meeting of metalcore with skate punk. Ever hear a metal version of "Pipeline"? Well, here it is. The centerpiece of this LP is the back to back songs "Skate for the Devil" and "I'm a Skater". The first emphasizes the metal aspects with a basso profundo voice introducing the song with wicked exhortation, then the second thrashes away. The band manages to go metal without any lame vocals or excessive pyrotechnics. The only weak song is "The Happy Song", kind of a throwaway that brings the energy level down, but other than that it's not bad. Funny thing is that I thought this was some kind of house band for the Boner label, various members of their stable jamming when I heard them on the BONERS album. Obviously I was wrong, and just as obviously they donated their weakest material to the comp, because this rips. (LP/SW)

*****

THE CARDBOARDS, "Greatest Hits Volume Two" (Mom's Records, PO Box 2676, Pittsburgh, PA 15230): With three folks on keyboards and Bill Bored hammering away at the drum set you can guess that these guys have a quick and melodic sound, as indeed they do. Their lyrics are sort of obscure, more a vocal covering for the music than anything else (what, after all, is one to make of "If it touches my lips & the light goes blink - I stop", the main line to "Copa Cabana"?) except on the final cut "Bill's Rap", which is an interesting putdown of groups that go along with the latest musical trend rather than following their own promptings. Pleasant stuff. (EP/MG)

*****

COMPUTER SEX, "Body Electric" (Eclectric Records, PO Box 4331, Austin, TX): CS is Jewel and Jason Star playing a lot of electronic instruments (including guitars, but the synth and drum machines are more evident) and singing in sort of a spacy style. The album jacket says "For best results play this album loud and alter consciousness", but what else do you expect from someone using a sitar? Not bad, just not distinguished. (LP/MG)

*****

CONTRABAND, "Girls of All Nations" ($5 from Que Tell Records, c/o Jeff Roberts, 11 Elliott St., E. Norwalk, CT 06855): Sort of a cross between hardcore and pop. Hardcore purists will probably deride Contraband for selling out, but I find it refreshing to hear hard rock from a band that sounds in control of its instruments rather than vice versa. With the three band members all sharing the vocal chores, occasionally switching back and forth on the same song, and a nice grasp of songwriting, Contraband is destined to be heard from again. I liked most everything here but a couple of self-indulgent instrumentals, but my nod goes to "Radio Free Bellevue", about the loonies taking over an FM station (or have they already done so?) and "Spirit", their contribution to the teen anthem sweepstakes. (LP/MG)

*****

COSTES, "Ma Sur Ta" ($4 cash/IMO from 13 Rue de la Pierre Levee, 75011 Paris, FRANCE): This is, by analogy with mail art, "mail music". Costes took music sent through the mail to him by six other French musicians, added a few more tracks and some vocals, and packaged it all up together. Some of the vocals are in English, but the majority are in French. As you might expect, the musical style varies from song to song, but in general it is new wavish and experimental, with strange rhythms and synthesizer sounds. There are about 20 other Costes cassettes available, some dating back ten years. (tape/MG)

*****

DANNY O'KANE WITH THE MODEL CITIZENS, "The Experts" (Blackberry Way Records, 606 13th Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414): Danny and his back-up band manage to put out a nice danceable beat without being plastic or annoying about it. I like the flipside on this one, "A Brand New Landscape", with its somewhat surreal lyrics: "It's filled with melting clockwork/And loads of worthless time/They don't understand/The latest Jargon/They don't understand/Expressionistic conversation". Nice poppy stuff. (EP/MG)

*****

DETOX, self-titled ($5 from Flipside Records, PO Box 363, Whittier, CA 90608): Ahhh. My favorite Flipside band -- the only single-artist release to rival the two compilation LPs. Detox speak my language. I might not be a drunk punk, but when they start talking about "Life on Cahuenga" and nearly every song is a virtual tragicomedy of life in LA and outlying SoCal all I can do is applaud. These

guys would have fit in great back in the days when people pogoed instead of slammed, the days in LA of the Weirdos and The Bags. Without being pretentious their guitar noodlings are positively strange. Drunken dogs in heat, no more like sober winos in a downpour singing for their supper. A must buy for anyone planning on taking a trip to Southern California. (LP/SW)

*****

THE DEVIL BELL HIPPIES, "Orgy of the Dead" (Panic Records, PO Box 1696, Skokie, IL 60076): These "Urban Teenage Barbarians" turn in a very solid performance on this slab. Over 20 tracks are crammed on here, and thanks to the quality of the pressing, they are all very distinctive indeed. Heavy metal for satanists with titles like "Kill All Wimps, Posers & Priests" and "Hectic Blood Feast". Not available in stores -- write for information on their cassette tapes, which provide an easier listening experience. (EP/MG)

*****

DEZARK, self-titled (Stone High Records, PO Box 2544, Baton Rouge, LA 70821): Christian hard-rockers whose music is their strong point. Not that the vocals are overly pushy or anything ("I often wonder how you did it without him/He is the light" is perhaps the only exception), but they somehow just don't seem to fit in with the music. Part of this may be in the mixing, as there are spots where the echo comes on and off rather unexpectedly. Whatever the problem is, the whole record just doesn't gel into something that makes sense. (EP/MG)

*****

THE DICKIES, "We Aren't The World!" (ROIR, 611 Broadway #725, New York, NY 10012): ROIR anthologizes early live stuff, rare singles (I think) and recent live stuff. A very good retrospective of LA's answer to The Ramones. An early punk band that is still hanging in there. While Leonard's between-song patter can sound banal (imagine him using these same lines for years!) the strong guitar playing of Stan Lee makes their cover versions of famous songs from hippie days come off hotter than the originals -- and when Leonard's voice is singing out those catchy phrases it's fine, fine, fine. Anyone who likes the Dickies already should own this, anyone who's heard a lot about them should start here. Now if they'd only put out another studio LP with new material... (tape/SW)

*****

THE DICTATORS, "Fuck 'em if They Can't Take a Joke" (ROIR, 611 Broadway #725, New York, NY 10012): The dictators were the seminal band for bringing wrestling to rock. R. Meltzer says these guys were cooler than the NY Dolls, and while the second statement is debateable and the first isn't I'd like to say that this reunion gig that ROIR captured for us a few years ago shows them better than they ever were, which is kind of cool. I don't want this to sound more like an ROIR report than a review, but ROIR has been releasing lots of classic stuff, reunion gigs and so on from bands like NY Dolls, UK Subs, Dickies, Question Mark, etc., and someone really ought to thank them. The only weak stuff on here is some of the wrestling rip off dialogue between songs that grows old when you want to keep hearing the cool songs over and over again. Quite a few cover versions, but who cares? (tape/SW)

*****

DOGGY STYLE, "Side by Side" ($5 from Flipside Records, PO Box 363, WHittier, CA 90608): If you read FLIPSIDE (and who doesn't?) then you might know that Hudley believes mature aging punk rockers need humor in their lyrics and tunes. In other words anger and/or changing the world eventually take a back seat to having fun (not as in decadence, not for Hudley). So it should come as no surprise that FLIPSIDE is sponsoring DS, who have by all reports been the first to bring a smile to the face of certain skins previously thought to be brain dead. But for all their good intentions I don't think this stuff works all that well without the live show to go with it. It's not a bad record, but juxtaposed with the Dickies melodies and humor it seems a little overshadowed. (LP/SW)

*****

DREAM FATIGUE, "Blue Dolphins" (Little Kingdom Productions, PO Box 36629, Strongsville, OH 44136): The lyrics on this one are poetic and Linda Blue's vocals lend them an eerie other-worldly quality. Unfortunately the mix on the synthesizer-like music quickly becomes tedious, as the volume wavers up and down as if one were just off the right spot on a radio station. For one song it might be a nice effect, but for a whole tape it becomes quite annoying. This seems to be an attempt at music for a new order of consciousness, but ultimately, I'd say it should be back to the drawing board -- or perhaps the mixing board. (tape/MG)

*****

ADAM EISENSTAT, "Pornographic Nightmare" ($5.75 from 716 S. Linden Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15208): Documentation of a multi-media performance by Adam and his band, Bad Martyrs. It opened with Boob Boom O'Hara, 250 pound belly dancer, improvising to a BM tune as Adam passed through the audience and an argasmic tape loop was played. Then Adam took the stage and sang the title cut, while a couple of projectors showed hardcore film loops. A few minutes later the club owner noticed what was going on, smashed both projectors, roughed up one projectionist and threatened to blow everybody's head off. Side two is a recording of a conversation between this psychotic and the artist, complete with threats of mayhem. Comes with the original performance lyric sheet. (tape/MG)

*****

FEARLESS IRANIANS FROM HELL, self-titled ($3 from Boner Records, PO Box 2081, Berkeley, CA 94702): Except for the theme song with the totally screamed vocals this doesn't make too deep of an impression. I figured that this would be really hot too, because I know at one point Rabid Cat was thinking of sigining these guys (they're a Texas band), but I don't hear anything special except a singer who goes for it. Not bad or anything, just not standout stuff. (EP/SW)

*****

FUNCTION DISORDER, "Function Disorder #1" (Corpus Mucus Productions, 475 Gate Five Rd. #212, Sausalito, CA 94965): If this is music with a message, the message is "Run away and hide under your bed". Agressive electronic music with a variety of percussive and squealing effects assaults your mind through a series of tracks, all tied together by their abrasiveness. Some of this sounds like the soundtrack to a SF movie, but you can only take so much of that at one time. More noise than music, the artists in this trio are clearly trying to get something across with their differences, but I don't know what it is. (LP/MG)

*****

HEAVY MENTAL, "Economic Growth" ($1.75 from Persistant Productions Ltd., PO Box 777, Evanston, IL 60204): The sixties are back and alive and well in the eighties. In this new release from the folks who brought you the free demo tape a while back, the fuzz guitar and slow rock beat threaten to engulf the incautious reviewer in nostalgia, despite the updated lyrics to songs like "CIA Theme" and "Welfare Mooche". Influenced by the Monkees, the Grateful Dead and who knows who else, the HM boys play good solid rock that's worth playing many times over. This EP features a very nice cover, complete with peace signs and a carcinogenic president. It's only a matter of time before HM is the next big thing. (EP/MG)

*****

HECTOR IN PARIS, "Highlife" (Mom's Records, PO Box 2676, Pittsburgh, PA 15230): Single from a half-pop, half-new wave band with rather surrealistic lyrics. "Highlife" is sort of a poem, recreating the mood of a chic cocktail party without resorting to anything so gauche as sentence structure. The flip side, "Rose's Party", features a different vocalist, male instead of female, and even harder-to-decipher lyrics, which ultimately reduce the word "fun" from a desireable state to a meaningless sound. (45/MG)

*****

HECTOR IN PARIS, "Silent Radio" (Mom's Records, PO Box 2676, Pittsburgh, PA 15230): New Wavy, with either real or synthesized horns. I like the sultry horn riffs better than the herky-jerky ones. The riffs I like sound like ones signifying that the emperor is on his way, but the chorus hook is kind of hackneyed. (EP/SW)

*****

HOME AND GARDEN, "Hideout" (After Hours Records, 300 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115): With their crisp, clean sound and poetic lyrics, H&G stand out quite forcefully from the crowd of indie artists. Depending heavily on synthesizers and rhythm, the sound is reminiscent of structured jazz (a contradiction in terms? so be it), while the lyrics lead one to think without being explicit. My favorite cut is "You are Here", narrated by a sexless female computer voice, and apparently the tour of some deranged department

store of the future ("Second floor:/Periodicals, dog treats, assorted landfill/Third floor:/bottled infants, chinese headdress"). (EP/MG)

*****

THE ICONOCLAST, self-titled ($2.50 from Flipside Records, PO Box 363, Whittier, CA 90608): More message hardcore with bombastic enough music and tempo and chord change-ups so as not to seem too generic. Still, the songs seem to go by without me getting a handle on them. But I'll bet this band is intense live. (EP/SW)

*****

THE IDEALS, "What It Is!!" (Mataka Mazuri Records, PO Box 4084, AUstin, TX 78765): What it is, according to the jacket, is "Texas Raunch 'n' Roll!" Well, maybe, but it sounds more like country-tinged punk -- or punk-tinged country -- to me. 15 songs, 14 of them (I think) originals (the last cut is a cover of "Amazing Grace", of all things). The Ideals sound like they're having a hell of a good time, and although it's difficult to put this refugee from the Texas barbecue scene into a pigeonhole, their party spirit carries over to the listener. With country, rock, blues and punk influences, about all I can tell you to do is to listen to them. I think you'll enjoy it. (LP/MG)

*****

THE IDLE STRAND, self-titled (Blackberry Way Records, 606 13th Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414): This four-piece manages to put out a surprisingly full and rich sound, no doubt helped by the synthesizer. Mike Owens fronts the group with a voice that seems more suited for C&W than the rock they play, though this isn't rockabilly or anything of the sort. The 13 cuts here are enough to establish a sound, which, while not terribly distinctive, is certainly pleasant to listen to. I suspect a lyric sheet would be a big help, but without it this is good stuff to have on while you work on something else. (LP/MG)

*****

KNIGHTMARE, "Postal Rebellion" (c/o Tim Koukos, 99 Sherwood Dr., Manchester, NH 03103): This six-song tape is a sample of the stuff on the group's next album, so I don't know if it's commercially available, but fanzine editors might want to drop them a line. These guys bill themselves as "aggressive violent thrash core speed metal", and while I might not go quite that far, it is pretty lous and obnoxious stuff. "Lake of Fire" is the obligatory "I'm going to Hell" song for this trio; "The Hate in Me Grows" is the sort of thing that inspires serial murdurers to go out and add another few notches to their guns. From the promo photos, it looks like their live shows must be a real blast, as long as you're not standing dangerously close to the stage. (tape/MG)

*****

KOMMUNITY FK, "Close One Sad Eye" (Independent Project Records, PO Box 60357, Los Angeles, CA 90060): This band is on the same label as Savage Republic (see below) and also took about four years to get their second LP out. The first was called "The Vision and the Voice" and the continuity between it and this is very strong. In fact one song, "The Other World", was even re-recorded for the current album. This is gloom descended from Bowie via Joy Division. The synthesizer never sounds awkward except for one incongruous part on a song with the same name as the first LP. The music is always powerful. The singer, Patrick Mata (who gossip always seems to have on his way to the UK to join a Brit gloom band) has a voice full of natural sustain. I'm glad that the music is slow enough to understand the cool lyrics: "I love your hair it's black as tires" and a song entitled "Trollops". Leave it to LA to come up with a better word for "slut". A really great album, but I still can't decide which of their two I like the best. (LP/SW)

*****

KOO DOT TAH, "To Kill The Pain" (KDT REcords, PO Box 85781, Seattle, WA 98145-1781): This is Koo Dot Tah's second 45 [see FF15] and it's much like the first one -- polished enough pop, but without much of anything to make it stand out. In the absence of any promotional material I can't tell you anything about the band, and after listening to it a few times, all I can tell you about the music is that it could slip right into a light rock program on the radio without making even a ripple. (45/MG)

*****

THE LEAD, "Return Fire" ($4 from Julio Rey, 10811 SW 67 Dr., Miami, FL 33173): Christian hardcore from this interesting band. There is musical promise here, even though their lyrics are liable to put off many rockers ("Jesus is the one who leads us to salvation/He is the one that really really cares"). Unfortunately, the musical quality of this live 2-track just doesn't make it, the overall effect being muddy and monotone. If you want to sample their music, try their self-titled EP instead (see FF16). (tape/MG)

*****

THE LOST SOULS, self-titled ($5.95 from Greenlight Records & Tapes, PO Box 23121, Cleveland, OH 44123): People involved with the current Mod revival should check out this one, a previously-unreleased compilation of tunes from one of the original Mod groups. Thanks to the fact that LS guitarist Denny Carleton now runs Greenlight these tunes are not lost forever, even though the group is. The mop-topped group with matching ties lays down some good old-fashioned rock, clearly influenced byt he British invasion but with American touches, and a few flares of definite originality such as the saxophone and flute lines in some of the melodies. The sound quality varies but is generally good, and this is a lot less plastic than listening to the standard "oldies" fare on Sunday afternoon radio. (tape/MG)

*****

RAY MASON, "It's Time to Captivate a Planet" ($4 from 58 Hawley St., Northampton, MA 01060): A self-produced 90-minute cassette with 26 tracks. Ray does the singing on all but one track and plays most of the instruments, thanks to multi-track recording. Overall this stuff is light pop, but some of it gets quite outre, and there are interesting change of pace numbers such as the a capella "Pick Up Put Down". Pleasant stuff for the most part, with a decent recording quality and a toe-tapping poppy feel. (tape/MG)

*****

MASSACRE GUYS, "The Rider" (Unclean Records, PO Box 725, Sand Springs, OK 74063): Utah's longest reigning hardcore band. This, their second EP, even has an extra cut with a guest vocalist from their early days. I remember when their first EP came out on Toxic Shock a lot of reviewers thought they were just about the strongest release ever on the label. Of course, since then TS has released Decry and Raw Power. But Unclean has already released materials by The Lepers and N.O.T.A., so while this may not be Unclean's hottest record, and perhaps not even en improvement on the first MG vinyl, it is pretty cool and certainly worth getting. Nice gutsy vocals. (EP/SW)

*****

MISSION, "When Thunder Comes" (Frantic Records, 2105 Maryland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21218): Pleasant rock with FM sensibilities. Mission is a three-piece with a polished sound, with David Cawkwell's guitar, Colin Michaels' drums and Harrison Tate's keyboards each taking their turn in the spotlight. The songs are meant for late at night, with uncertain, questioning lyrics: "Stand alone in a railway station/Wondered if its left without me/It's a thought or it's a message/It's a dream without the pictures." A good solid production. (LP/MG)

*****

GORDON MONAHAN, "Piano Mechanics/Large Piano Magnified" (PO Box 1205, Stn. F, Toronto, ONT M4Y 2V8 CANADA): Gordon has gone back to the piano and produced a whole new range of sounds. The two sides of this record are stand-alone compositions, but they can also be viewed as toolboxes containing all the parts necessary for a whole new school of piano composition. "Piano Mechanics" features non-electronic, novel use of the piano to produce a series of sounds we would otherwise swear to be electronic; "Large Piano Magnified" uses multi-tracking and differences in playback speed to alter the piano's sounds. Very intriguing. (LP/MG)

*****

MOX NIX, "We Won't Be Controlled" (Late Productions): Some of the same cuts are on here as on the split Mox Nix/Livers "Orgy at Green Acres" tape but these are different versions. A real powerful garage hardcore band that doesn't sound like every other band. Too bad they broke up. In case you didn't know (and I didn't) Mox Nix is bastardized German for "It makes no difference", and I guess these guys were kind of nihilistic, if not in their lyrics then in the way they shred and slur their way through the songs. The same label has a compilation called "Who says we slur?" and I say: Me! Keep on slurring, kids. (tape/SW)

*****

NEUTRAL NATION, "Invasion of the Sumo Wrestler" (22 North Ave., Attleboro, MA 02703): There is one really pathetic song on here and a bunch more (5 in all) that I couldn't care less about. The one so bad it's almost good is called "Bad Music Beach" and it is all about how terrible AOR radio is and how awful it is to get stuck listening to someone's blaster on the beach. The only problem is that I'd rather be stuck listening to some of the groups they ridicule than this turkey of a song. Another song starts out with a talking intro a la a TV evangelist -- a real annoying device. Sorry guys, you won't be Neutral for long -- after reading this you'll have to declare war. (EP/SW)

*****

NEW YORK DOLLS, "Lipstick Killers" (ROIR, 611 Broadway #725, New York, NY 10012): The ROIR folks must have really searched for this, a tape of studio sessions the Dolls did just 5 months after they got together, before they made it big (but while they were on the way). Although the sound quality says that this wasn't meant to be released, it's still a nice tape, as it gives one a glimpse back into 1972 when today's sound was being invented. The Dolls display their roots on this one: "Don't Mess With Cupid" is a cover of an Otis Redding tune, while "Pills" (probably the best tune here) sounds very much like an unpolished Rolling Stones song. For historians or rock fans. (tape/MG)

*****

OBLIVION NOW, "Tape One" ($3 from Demented Mind Mill, PO Box 2262, Provo, UT 84603-2262): Ominous noise-rock that drives a dentist's drill into the softest part of your brain with lyrics like "We'll teach you that night is day/We'll teach you that to serve is to rule/We'll teach you that you are a tool" (from "You are the Children"). The team of Worm, Tomb and Roach, with their barrage of guitars, electronics and screaming vocals. (tape/MG)

*****

OBLIVION NOW, "Resurrect" ($3 from Demented Mind Mill, PO Box 2262, Provo, UT 84603-2262): From the DMM come these tunes that little Mormon girls listen to as they attain their first chaste orgasms. Yes, "Gone With the Worms" is top of the pops in Provo. Imagine Monkees meets Christian Death meets sound effects from the scariest horror movie of all times. This is a really cool little half hour's worth of bone chilling babies. I especially like the song "Santa": it's "Claws" not "Claus" and he's after your ass and you'd better bolt the door. So buy a bunch of these and give 'em away as Christmas presents this year. Really good horror rock, not as mean as Misfits or Samhain, not as romantic as Christian Death, but twice as scary as either. (tape/SW)

*****

OFFENDERS, "Endless Struggle" (Rabid Cat Records, PO Box 49263, Austin, TX 78765): SPIN just had a feature on Austin, Texas. And wouldn't you know it, they omitted all mention of either the Offenders of Austin's coolest label, Rabid Cat. So kindly forget the preppie-wave and recycledelic bands out of Austin and buy everything on Rabid Cat starting with these speedcore maniacs who are overtly political but make up for it with intensity matched by few. This is real head-banging, slam-dancing thrash with a conscience. Not one weak song here. (tape/SW)

*****

AL PERRY, "Fraidy Cat" ($4 from PO Box 40421, Tucson, AZ 85717): Al plays the guitar (actually several guitars) with occasional drum backing on this instrumental tape. There are vestiges of several styles to be heard here -- beach music, C&W, even psychedelia all make their appearances in Al's songs. Overall, though, it's pretty straightforward stuff, without a lot of embellishment other than the plain guitar music you might find backing any popular song. (tape/MG)

*****

PSYCHOTIC NORMAN, "Man Meets Fish" ($2 from Sgrophonic Records, PO Box 373, Philadelphia, PA 19105): What mental pictures does that name conjure up for you? Hey, this is nerd rock deluxe. Two songs are nerdish pop/new wave -- almost punk -- then comes "Cosmic Rap" and we have the theme song to "As the Gorge Rises". Not my cup of hemlock. Neurotic Norman would be more like it. (EP/SW)

*****

RADIO ALARM CLOCKS "Wake Me When It's Over" ($5.99 from After Hours Records, 300 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115): Bizarre music from a full-sounding five-piece rock group. The Clocks have an oddball way of looking at the world, perhaps influenced by too many late-night sci-fi movies; at least that's the best way I can think of to account for ditties like "Slave Planet" and "Sex Dimension". There's a variety of stuff here, including instrumentals, a teen anthem ("You (Bust Out)" with its emphasis on fast cars & loose women) and a couple of energetic covers, including a very, er, different version of "Time Is On My Side". Fun stuff. (LP/MG)

*****

RADIO PIECE III, self-titled (Radio Star Records, 167 Crane St., Fairfield, CT 06430): I think of these guys as being sort of like Emerson, Lake and Palmer without the hallucinogens. The sound here is heavy on the keyboards but much lighter and poppier than ELP, without the killer sci-fi overtones. Enough comparisons; this funked-up music is pleasant in and of itself. The best part is the instrumentals; there are a few vocal tracks, particularly on the closing rock cut "Cabana Club" that really don't seem to fit in too well with the rest of the music. The best cuts, like "Casey and the Bouncing Pumpkins", are continual extravaganzas of experimentation, with a new sound every couple of bars, the keyboards, drums and guitars all taking the cue from one another. (LP/MG)

*****

REBELS AND INFIDELS, "Young, Gifted and Black" (Fowl Records, PO Box 1821, San Francisco, CA 94101): Bay area guys and gals on the same label as the Fuck-Ups, early Verbal Abuse, and Black Humor. This LP's worth of songs on tape is not likely to make them quite so infamous as any of the above but it certainly will hope drive home the fact that not all Bay Area bands are polluted with the political mindset. With everyone in the band doing some vocals and all 3 musicians also writing their own songs there is definite diversity here. I'd say some of this is melodramatic hardcore, like a song called "Pulse, Breath, Orgasm Death". In contrast to Insanity Defense's "Let Me Help" [see FF18] R&I have a song with the chorus "I Can't Help You". Any group with a song called "Hats off to Larry", lauding Mr. Flynt, is likely to win my favor, and I come away liking this quite a bit. Heard they might have broke up, though. (tape/SW)

*****

ROACH EGG INVASION, "Huevos Roacheros" (c/o Beatless News, 3107 S. Mt. Carmel, Wichita, KS 67217): This live album, recorded at Woody's Back Door Tavern, is permeated throughout by the blistering, fingernails-on-chalkboard vocals of Charlotte Webb. She has one of those voices that either turn you on or turn you off, with no middle ground, admirably suited to belting out lyrics like "I hate baseball, apple pie and Chevrolet/I hate the U.S.A./I wish it would just blow away". Behind her, the band's sound is sort of dire & gloomy rock, without any keyboards or other technofrills. Good recording of an energetic club date. (LP/MG)

*****

SHELL RUNAR, "Dissent - Anarchy" (trade for other tapes from PO Box 15086 CCP, Portland, ME 04101): The A side of this tape is fairly standard synthesizer madness, featuring a sound that ranges from eerie to fuzzed out to downright noisy and augmented by the occasional distorted vocal or ear-piercing squeal. On the flip side things begin to get interesting, starting off with a rant against the FCC and then continuing with more music interwoven with distorted radio & TV sounds, bird calls, animal noises and other stuff. Shell is interested in swapping this for other home-taped experiments. (tape/MG)

*****

SAVAGE REPUBLIC, "Ceremonial" (Independent Project Records, PO Box 60357, Los Angeles, CA 90060): After a pretty long wait since "Tragic Figures" (the first SR album) we get an album with some instrumentals that are as compelling as anything they've done. SOundtrack music for a movie that corporate Hollywood wouldn't be cool enough to make. Unfortunately the vocals and lyrics are a lot weaker than on the previous album. I'm not sure whether it's a different singer (I think it is) or just less effects and screaming, but the vocals are almost childlike and neither agressive or depressive, and seemingly even a little off key. They're not awful though, not awful enough to prevent this album from being one of the best of '86. I wouldn't want to live without these magical sounds that evoke ancient Moroccan rites that build and build with the 3 back

to back instrumentals on side two. (LP/SW)

*****

SCRATCH ACID, "Just Keep Eating" ($8 from Rabid Cat Records, PO Box 49263, Austin, TX 78765): One of those great weird powerhouse records that makes the 80's the finest musical time of all. The music is so hard to describe that it might be more effective to choose a few choice lyrics like "I promised me I wouldn't do this: spit myself a feral kiss" and "in the rearview mirror is a yellow eyeball and it looks just like yours and the wind cries and you lay there like a bed of snow and headless hunchbacks step over you". Such a versatile band that they all play "musical" instruments and switch up on one cut without diminishing the onslaught. My fave cut is one with a guest guitarist called "Ain't That Love" -- the music transcends its already oscillating barriers and slices through your churning brain. Not one bad song on here. Worth the wait. There's also a limited edition album cover for $1.25 more. Get yours now. (LP/SW)

*****

SKOPTZIES, "On The Edge of Insanity" ($7 from Harsh Reality Music, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): Music for the disturbed who still like to dance. When has industrial ever seemed more like party time rock? Actually the tunes on this full 90 minute tape range from minimalistic to squalls of sound (but never white noise) to rock-like songs. Trademarks are the treated vocals that are always sinister, no matter the rest of the music. As entertaining as it is scary, it might even be considered soothing after listening to too much speedcore. Skoptzies has passed away and risen from the ashes as Viktimized Karcass, but don't hesitate to go back and pick up any tapes you may have missed. (tape/SW)

*****

NUDGE SQUIDFISH, "Carolyn" (PO Box 644, Westerville, OH 43081): Personally, I didn't think this was as good as "Sellout" [see FF18], but as one-man bands go, Nudge isn't bad. The vocals on this tape are just a little thin, the backing keyboards just a little minimalist, for this to be a truly good release. The best bet cuts are the apocalyptic "Judgement Day" and the title tune, a wistful look at a lost love. (tape/MG)

*****

A STATE OF MIND and CHUMBAWAMBA, "We Are the World?" ($2.25 from Mind Matter REcords, PO Box 421304, San francisco, CA 94142): I was prepared to hate this record, after the previous ASOM release [see FF16], so it was a pleasant surprise to find intelligent, harmonious, catchy anti-authoritarian punk here. A transatlantic collaboration, with Chumbawamba from England and ASOM from the US, in this record the political messages do not get in the way of the music. Of course the bands are interested in communicating their point of view, and it is to be hoped that the lyrics will lead the listener to the 16-page booklet discussing the evils of patriotism. But even if they don't, the music is worth hearing, with catchy vocals on the part of both groups and a sound that carries over from one side to the other in an astounding display of long-range planning and cooperation. (EP/MG)

*****

SWING SET, "Life Speeds Up" (Blackberry Way Records, 606 13th Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414): As with the rest of the Blackberry Way lineup, Swing Set are hardly a batch of noisy young punks playing in a garage. Rather, this is a polished studio effort from five guys, 4 of whom share the vocal tasks in this melodic group. Their music wouldn't be out of place on most relaxed FM stations, or on the turntable in my own home, for that matter. A good sense of melody and excellent harmonies between the various vocals make this a group to watch for. (LP/MG)

*****

ED TABELA, "...Thanks For the Love" (T-Street Records, 135 Central Ave., East Providence, RI 02914): A couple of love songs from the guy who owns the label and his friends. "Thanks For the Love" features a multi-track electric guitar backing and backing vocals from a couple of the band members; the flipside, "Saturday's Child" is laid down over an acoustic guitar track. Neither one really stands out as anything special, just decent sounding light rock. (45/MG)

*****

TEMPORAL PAIN, "How Absurd" (ltd/ltd. Products, PO Box 20132, Knoxville, TN 37940): Fronted by a mysterious "rev. ganglia", this is clearly another SubGenius attempt to pollute the moral fibre of America. Six cuts with names like "Losing It" and "I'm Dead" combine screaming and shouting, distorted electronic noises, bits of radio and tape loops, and a minimally musical accompaniment into a barrage of senseless sound. (flexi/MG)

*****

TEN FOOT FACES, self-titled (Independent Project Records, PO Box 60357, Los Angeles, CA 90060): 3 songs produced by Vitus of The Last, probably the best psychedelic group of the 80s. This is psychedelic stuff too, as the band name would tip you to. The best song is "Sand Fuck" which warns you of the need for plenty of grease to compensate for the sand. The poppier song, "Don't Want Love", is sung by a different band member whose voice annoys a little but the production and playing carry it. The 3rd song is an instrumental that didn't stick in my head even after a few listens. Not bad, but not what I'd expect on the IPR label. (EP/SW)

*****

THEATRE OF ICE, "The Resurrection" ($5 from Demented Mind Mill, PO Box 2262, Provo, UT 84603-2262): TOI are now billing themselves as "the masters of gothic terror" and I think they've earned the title. This new 60-minute release is a great showcase for their talents. Though all pretty much downers, the songs are otherwise quite diverse. I particularly enjoyed the blistering "Tomorrow Never Comes", the almost melodic "In the Coming Years", the (rare) live cut "Funeral Games" and the eerie, nasty opening cut, "Gone With the Worms", a love song for a corpse. You owe it to yourself to listen to at least one TOI cassette very late at night. (tape/MG)

*****

TWISTED VALUE, "Sounds From the Pseudo Pit" ($5 from 564 E. State Rd., Coldwater, MI 49036): Awesome rock that borders on being thrash without quite crossing the border into complete unintelligibility. I think Death Lee III's drumming carries the group along, but Todd Bag's screaming guitars and Rubie Casanova's vocals are prime themselves. The songs range from silly ("Weed Machine", about being awoken by a neighboring gardener) to political ("Legal Murder") to just downright twisted ("Meaningless Task" with wonderful anti-system lyrics: "I'm getting closer to a mindless fit/And I could not give a shit" screams the worker/singer as he gets sick on the job and watches the plant burn down). Recommended. (tape/MG)

*****

UK SUBS, "Left For Dead" (ROIR, 611 Broadway #725, New York, NY 10012): "Alive in Holland 86" is the subtitle. Done on 24 tracks and I don't know why they needed that many but the sound is good and Charlie is right up front. A punk rock singer as old as Mick Jagger with no sign of tiring, this guy is my idol. If I could write songs this cool and hang out for a decade as frontperson I'd shit. UK Subs were part of the 2nd wave of bands in England, post Pistols, then stuck around to be popular with the 3rd generation by which time the factions of Oi and Peace Punk were underway. I'm pretty sure UK Subs have appealed to all of the above in England. For sure they're a pretty big draw in LA where they headline whenever they come over. If someone figures that a decade after a genre starts all practitioners have either dumped it or sound hackneyed they haven't heard much of this. Pure punk for pandemonium people. ROIR does it again, and I think there's a double disc out on vinyl about now too.

*****

Various Artists, "For Your Ears Only" ($4 from Jim Testa, 418 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087): Proceeds from this compilation benefit JERSEY BEAT fanzine, a fairly deserving cause. Anyhow, the price is right for some good music, starting with The Disturbed's "Radical Sabbatical" theme-song medley and ending up with a piece from Ray Mason (see above). In between are some choice numbers, including Mod Fun's very mod indeed "I Feel Good", The Disturbed again with "I'm Dying of Boredom" (possibly a teen anthem for the 80's) and Sarcastic Orgasm with "Forum Letter", excerpted from Penthouse to the tune of heavy guitars. Also check out Moist Ham Radio's Firesignish piece "Liberal College Radio". (tape/MG)

*****

Various Artists, "Them Boners Be Poppin'" ($5 from Boner Records, PO Box 2081, Berkeley, CA 94702): This is one Bay Area compilation not overloaded with political correctness, Fang and Tales of Terror being renowned as two of the rudest

groups around. TOT sacrifices intensity for novelty, covering "Let it Be" and sing about killing an errant girlfriend -- pretty yawnable. But there are two cuts on this LP that rip, both by Verbal Abuse, and the Boneless ones make the old standby "Train Kept A-Runnin'" into a beer song, "Kegs kept A-Flowin'". Blast are pretty good heavy punk and Special Forces are more typical Bay area politicore. Fang have a couple of decent cuts, bringing them in right behind Verbal Abuse. All in all a decent compilation but you would serve your collection better by picking up LPs by these bands. (LP/SW)

*****

Various Artists, "Last White Christmas" (Bad Compilation Tapes, PO Box 16205, San Diego, CA 92116): 90 minutes of Italian thrash recorded 2 or 3 years back. Well known in America now, Raw Power is featured on this tape with a bunch of cuts. Not as metallic as they are these days but even rawer. Actually my standout favorite is the only band not into thrashing hardcore -- they're garage trash and do a cover of Bo Diddley's "Can't Judge a Book by its Cover" that is worth the price of admission. Definitely recommended for 'cores (and this is one of Chris' own favorites on his label by the way). (tape/SW)

*****

Various Artists, "Northwest Metal Projekt" (COMA Records, 2318 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98128): A promotional device featuring 7 metal bands. I wanted to like this. I mean, I realized I've been liking metalcore bands a lot and I always liked early metal (late 60's, early 70's), but most of this stuff is just fair. Even if this music is impressive the falsetto vocals rub me the wrong way. I guess the high point is Upper Echelon's "Drivin' Mean" which reminds me a lot of my 70's metal fave Lucifer's Friend from Germany. All these bands can play their instruments and all the singers can shriek. Somewhere between MTV glam metal and underground death metal. Rottweiler's singer doesn't shriek too much. I dunno, I wish I could give them some good quotes for their promos. How about some advice instead: dump your managers and get a tougher sound. (tape/SW)

*****

VICIOUS CIRCLE, "Search for the Solution? " and PERDITION, "A Torturing Compilation" ($5 from Flipside Records, PO Box 363, Whittier, CA 90608): An LP featuring a different Australian band on each side -- two for the price of one. Now Australia is more well known amongst record collectors for their punk/psychedelic bands influenced by Iggy and with the direct Saints/Radio Birdmen link. But that is not what Vicious Circle and Perdition are about -- what they are about is tight, no frills hardcore with lyrics in the peace punk tradition. They certainly don't sound alike though. VC is much closer to LA's pre-metalcore thrash, while Perdition almost sounds like it could be a British Crass-sponsored band, and on one song the singer and the music sound like Zounds. So what we end up with is a lot of value for the buck with plenty of songs and not much let-up. Nothing here that cracked my nut sack but it was all good. (LP/SW)

*****

VIKTIMIZED KARCASS, "Atrocity Slaughter" ($5 from Harsh Reality Music, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): Grating industrial music from the South. VK consists of 4 or 5 guys variously playing guitars, drums, keyboard, found sounds, and feedback to make interesting but not melodic noise. There are vocals on some of these tracks, but they are for the most part fuzzed out or otherwise distorted and best regarded as just another strange instrument. VK creates a unique ambience, but it's one that not many people will like, as is the case with most of this factory-music genre. (tape/MG)

*****

THE WALLMEN, "Better Hair & Nails Thru Hypnotism" ($3 from 7711 Lisa Ln., North Syracuse, NY 13212): Minimalist music from a bunch of SubGenius subversives. More melodic than the secretive Doktorz bands, the Wallmen's music is for the most part created by guitars and what sounds like the toy organ I had when I was six. The lyrics come with strange, spoken rather than sung intonantions, and range from anticultural on "Mother" ("Let out your aggressions mother/bang your head on the door") to SubGenially doctrinaire ("We traded normal sex lives for diet milkshakes") to maddeningly self-referential ("Is this art?/Is this life?/What are they trying to tell us?" from "Bigger then Jesus"). Ambient padded-cell music. (tape/MG)

*****

WIMPY DICKS, "S.L.O. Bored" (Bopp n' Skin Records, PO Box 14016, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406): S.L.O. stands for San Luis Obispo, a little beach town in the middle of nowhere, California. I was expecting undistinguished hardcore when I opened this, so it was a pleasant surprise to get it on the turntable. The WD's have a sound of their own, unlikely as that may be for a punk band, and I like it. In part this is because I can hear the lyrics over the guitars, and the lyrics are reasonably anti-authoritarian ("You have the right to remain silent/We have the right to bash you in the head", from "Police Riot S.L.O. Town"). Definitely rock rather than thrash, although the band itself denies all labels. Might make a good introduction to punk for the timid but interested. (LP/MG)

*****

XRAY POP, "Alcool/Amazone" and "DS/El Gato" (Pilot Records, 10 Rue d'Elysee, 37000 Tours, FRANCE): A French trio. Intriguing music featuring a singer with a sexy voice and some language swapping. French on some cuts but Spanish on "El Gato" which also has a little meowing since the title of course means "The Cat". Keyboards go from wailing to beeping to bubbling in the best synth-pop tradition. I might hate this if it didn't sound so European and the singer so desireable. (2 45s/SW)

*****

CASSETTEZINES

Cassette magazines, or cassettezines, are tapes that come out on a more or less regular schedule, with or without printed accompaniment, and containing a variety of works. Here's a couple from this quarter's mail:

GARGOYLE #28 (PO Box 3567, Washington, DC 20007): This is for the most part poetry read by the poets, though a few of the tracks have a music backing and there are a few experimental synth riffs without words. There are a dozen or so poets represented here, but only a few of them stand out. Gretchen Johnson is the only one who sounds truly poetic to me; her short poems are full of well-realized images that mean something without being completely literal. Damon Norko's "Whimper" is a powerful screed directed against the injustices in our society, hampered by the poet's overly dramatic reading. And John ELsberg gets in a nice self-referential poem called "After Attending a Bly Workshop". Most of the rest is undistinguished, with the exception of David Sheridan's works, which are actively annoying. (tape/MG)

MUSICWORKS 34 ($26/yr from Music Gallery, 1087 Queen St. West, Toronto, ONT M6J 1H3 CANADA): A Dolby tape with a 20-page tabloid, both very well produced. Subtitled "There is no reason to believe that music exists" (a quote from Al Neil), this issue features the works of John Oswald, proprietor of Mystery Tapes [see FF15, FF18]. John writes wittily and informatively of "plunderphonics", the art of re-using sounds from other works, and on the tape demonstrates what he is talking about, both with his own stuff and some others, including unexpected examples like one of Carl Stollings' Warner Brothers' scores. The cassette is an eclectic tour through dozens of cultures and styles; the accompanying zine also contains a few outside evaluations of the Mystery Labs. All in all, quite fascinating.

PKDS NEWSLETTER 9/10 ($10 from PO Box 611, Glen Ellen, CA 95442): This is a special issue of the Philip K. Dick Society's journal, titled "90 minutes with Philip K. Dick". The first side is made up of excerpts from an interview done by Paul Williams in late 1974; the material here went into a Rolling Stone article and later into a book. It is a rather disjointed affair, interrupted by cats and children; at times Dick sounds almost bemused, as if he doesn't understand what an interview is for or why anyone would want to talk to him. He talks of his career and his works, as well as some of the influences on his writing. Side Two is to my mind much more fascinating, as it was recorded by Dick himself when he had his arm in a splint and couldn't write. It is notes for a novel that was to have been a sequel to MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE, to be called VALISYSTEM. This particular book was never finished, but parts of it became VALIS and RADIO FREE ALBEMUTH. It is interesting to hear some of ideas that later evolved into Dick's Exegesis as they get their first expression on this tape. A

must for PKD fans.

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>>>MUSICAL NOTES:

*CAUSE AND EFFECT (PO Box 30383, Indianapolis, IN 46230) has their Summer '86 catalog out, with a listing of their own independent tape releases. I haven't heard of most of their bands, but it looks like new wave and experimental stuff for the most part.

*DELUXE (PO Box 883311, San Francisco, CA 94188) is a record and tape distribution outfit. They also carry T-shirts and a couple of books. Most of their catalog looks like hardcore and metal.

*FACE THE MUSIC ($1 from PO Box 163142, Sacramento, CA 95816): FTM's 1986 Main Catalog is available, chock full of new records, tapes, and videos. If it's in print they can order it for you; out of print, they have a search service. Their supplements list a lot of used records at reasonable prices. I've done business with them and am eminently satisfied at their speed and quality.

*Timothy Gassen (2707 E. Edison St., Tucson, AZ 85716) has a 2-hour show called the "Flower Hour" on the local radio station, and is interested in tapes of garage/psychedelic music.

*THE GREAT ATLANTIC RADIO CONSPIRACY (2743 Maryland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21218) has a catalog available listing various of their Leftist and anarchist radio shows on cassette.

*GREEN LIGHT RECORDS AND TAPES (PO Box 23121, Cleveland, OH 44123) has a free catalog of their productions available. See the LOST SOULS review above for one of their products.

*HEIRS OF THE BLESSING (PO Box 52, Herrin, IL 62948) have a series of cassette tapes available on such subjects as "The Mark of the Beast", "God's Servant People" and "America is a Bible Land".

*K NEWSLETTER #5 (FREE from PO Box 7154, Olympia, WA 98507) is an occasional update from this independent cassette company, discussing their upcoming and in-print releases. A lot of their stuff is very strange, minimalist spoken-word or amateur music.

*KALX-FM (2311 Bowditch St., Berkeley, CA 94704) is the UC-Berkeley radio station, and they make their playlists available for an SASE.

*RAUNCH (375 W. 400 S., Salt Lake City, UT 84101) is a mail distributor of records and tapes, including some imports. Special sections of the catalog for speedcore and industrial, plus lots of other punk. Prices start at $2.

*SEIDBOARD WORLD ENTERPRISES (75 Bleecker St., New York, NY 10012) is putting together a compilation album, to be called "The Lighter Side of World Hunger". They're looking for funny songs, in English, about hunger, submitted on high-quality cassette.

*SOUND EFFECTS (PO Box 3993, Peabody, MA 01961-3393): New Wave and collectible records are listed for sale in this catalog, mint and used. Prices in the $5 to $50 range for the most part.

*TELLUS #13 ($35/6 issues from Harvestworks, 16 W. 22nd St. #902, New York, NY 10010) is out, with a cassettezine titled "Power Electronics" and featuring post-industrial noise.

*VISA (17 Rue Raspail, 93100 Montreuil, FRANCE) is a European independent tape distributor. Their products are available in the US for $9 each. Write for a full listing.

Why Publish?

Janet Fox, SCAVENGER'S NEWSLETTER:

Scavenger's Newsletter is more of a network than a magazine. It is an attempt to give a reliable picture of potential outlets and/or markets for sf/fantasy/horror writing and art. It covers pro markets, too, somewhat, but has a small press bias. I think that small press can offer participation and creative freedom to the writer or artist at any level of achievement; however the very nature of small press can make it frustrating for the contributor with the ups and downs and sudden deaths of the various zines. Since Scav is a co-operative, subscribers share information on markets and non-markets and on a monthly basis the information can be relatively up to date. Being on the receiving end of this network is useful to me in finding outlets for my own work and I'd gladly do it on a break even basis and for the sheer fun of publishing (tho possibly the fun will wear off. After two years I'm still a neo-editor). Since it's not feasible for me to run it as a hobby (I can't afford hobbies), I run it as a mini-business and at about 300 paid subscribers it makes a very modest profit.

*****

Erik Kosberg, BETWEEN THE LINES:

BTL started off as a joke without a punchline. I had seen other little publications and thought "Hey, I can do that, it looks easy". So I did. I found out that I could indeed publish a magazine, but that I was wrong on the second part -- it's a lot more work than I ever imagined.

Circulation has gone up from 35 for the first issue to 250 for the fifth. Of those, about 30 were to people who wrote me in response to seeing my zine in FF, 20 were for paid subscribers, 5 went to prisoners, 20 were in trade, and 30 went to people/publications listed in FF or other zines in hopes of trades (only 12 responded). Most of the rest went gratis to friends of mine locally or to artists and writers I correspond with scattered over this planet of clocks.

I consistently lose money on it and no doubt Mom and Dad would call it a waste of hard earned bucks, but I could just as easily waste it on $100 a gram coke. I've come into contact with people/publications/ideas that I probably would not have otherwise. Why publish? Why not?

*****

DAVE REISSIG:

It's basically a hobby. Of course, it's also ego; and it's because I think I have important things to say, that no one else is saying. My style of self-expression is to purvey ideas.

*****

EDITORS: I'd appreciate your thoughts for this column, since it seems destined to be an ongoing feature of FF. Jot down a few paragraphs about your zine, why you do it, and how it works, and send it to me. Then you can bask in the knowledge that you've helped corrupt others into this debilitating hobby of ours.

I hasten to typer to acknowledge receipt of *FACTSHEET FIVE #18*.

The striking cover color readily caught my attention amidst a plethora of bills. Imagine the joy of finding something that gives instead of demanding to receive! Immediately I delved to search out the newest treasure from the concise, succinct reviews, to revel in the sardonic latency of the columns, to giggle unreservedly at the advertisements... you know the *schtik*. That was the **GOOD NEWS**. Having read the disclaimer on the otherwise unadorned inside cover, I was prepared for some inconvenience. So, I could cope with a sentence unmercifully truncated until I could locate the succeeding page. Now for the **BAD NEWS**: enclosed is a bill from my opthamologist for servies rendered in correcting "severe strabismus." I know you will gleefully present it to the

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printer and press strongly for a prompt remittance.

Letters

Believe it or not I enjoyed the out-of-order format -- if you can look past the fact that it's a huge printing, or rather, collating and layout error, and look at it as a cut-up experiment, it's a highly interesting read.
This may be due to the predictability of the usual FF format.
I'm not kidding! I know you probably feel terrible about the mess, but what the hell...
--John E.
MUMBLES

*****

I have some questions for you:
Are you some sort of speed reader? You seem to digest immense amounts of material and comprehend it as well. How do you do it?
How does your distribution break down as %subscription, %single copy purchase, %trade, %newstand, etc.?
Any people that get FF that are names most would recognize?
--John Bridgman

/* I'm not a speed reader, just a fast one. I just have a lot of spare time to read, particularly when I'm trying to take the Boston subways to get anywhere. Who knows what will happen in New York?
The last issue was roughly 11% subscription, 14% single-copy sales, 61% trades, 10% newsstand sales, and 4% freebies. The price would be lower if there were more subscribers per trade, so if you all go out and get one other person to sign up, I'll be able to give you a discount on the next issue.
I don't think there are any particularly famous people on my mailing list, but who knows what pseudonyms are lurking there? */

*****

What sort of zines would not be listed in FF?
--Martin Morse Wooster

/* Most professional zines (slick, with paid staff) won't be listed (I make an exception for a few far off the beaten path). Hate lit only gets listed occasionally. Hard-core porno isn't appropriate, I feel, but all sorts of erotica is. But in amateur stuff, almost anything goes. */

*****

Thank you for your fairly fair critique of my book, THE DISPOSSESSED MAJORITY [see FF18]. Generally, it is either ignored or smeared. Nevertheless, we have managed to sell almost 110,000 copies in the last 14 years and have come out with I don't know how many updated editions.
I have noted all the magazines and journals that you have so interestingly classified and described in Factsheet Five and intend to subscribe to a few, or at least order one copy. I didn't realize there were so many weirdos out there.
--Wilmot Robertson

*****

Say, why is there no black content in FF? Is there no black print alternative in the US or have you just been unable to locate it? I'd particularly like to know how to get ahold of the writings (if there are any) of Louis Farrakhan. I know he circulates tapes...
--Herb Ashe

/* Well, I haven't found it yet. Readers? */

*****

How do you find stuff to review? Do you rely on the publishers getting a hold of you? I know of several interesting pubs that should be included, I could send addresses or perhaps even reviews.
--Shell Runar

/*First off, please don't send reviews, as I prefer to keep the fanzine reviews all mine for the time being. The best way to get something new reviewed here is to send me a copy, and I'll extend your subscription to FF in return. Next best is probably to ask the other pub to trade with me, or to send me their address, but unfortunately I don't always follow through in that case when things get lost in the shuffle. But I do try. */

*****

The Zendokan Budokai of America, Inc. (Mind-Way Church) was founded in 1980. We were founded in the USAN (American) Buddhist tradition but one need not be a Buddhist to join.
Unlike most Buddhist groups, ZBA has both priests and ministers.
We sponsor several prison groups here in Ohio and in Kentucky.
We are especially interested in contacting inmates in prisons in the U.S. and Canada who are interested in setting up meditation and/or martial arts groups within their prisons; or in contacting already established meditation groups (and martial arts groups) in prisons (or out) that need backing or just want to help establish a prison martial arts/meditation network.
--Rev. Jim Mu

*****

Personally, I think you could use more articles & more graphics....but that's just my opinion.
--Aaron
COMETBUS

/* So do I, but first I could use more money */

*****

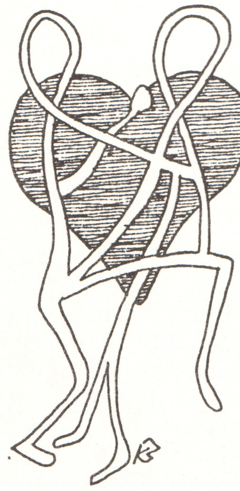
Since there are 4 Phoebe's per quarter and you only review one, wouldn't it be better to review the zine in general instead of the issue?
--J. MacDougall

/* I tried doing general reviews a while ago and they all came out sounding like mashed potatoes. It seems that I can give a better idea of the feel of a zine by concentrating on one issue at a time. */

*****

It seems that increasing my volume is the most effective way to lower printing costs....The obvious problem here is that I'm afraid I'll be papering the walls with my magazine unless I take some serious marketing/distribution steps....I guess I really just need to get in touch with enough people who are into it to build up my mailing list. I'm curious to hear your reactions to all this. Do you think I have any hope of breaking even? Of circulating over 500 copies? Of maintaining my integrity?
--Patrick Rael,
BINARY LOAD LIFTER

/* Sure, I think anyone can get up to 500 copies if they can afford it, and maintain their integrity in the process. After all, there are a lot of zines willing to trade out there. The real problem is breaking even. FF still doesn't break even, though sales are starting to catch up with expenses. Maybe the new printing format will help. Maybe all of my readers will get their friends to subscribe. Who knows? In any case, I don't think you'll get rich, but if you have a steady job and get on the distribution circuit, you probably won't lose too much. */



STRING LOVERS
85

Books

Bag of Wire, BOX OF WATER ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA (70¢ 8 1/2 x 11 SASE from PO Box 441230, West Somerville, MA 02144): This is sort of a substitute for the Bag of Wire Exposé reviewed in past FFs. It's a collection of collage done as a one-shot, which puts it into this section rather than back with the periodicals. If there's an overarching theme here, it's the alphabet in all its guises; there are bits and pieces of works in a dozen languages and typographies scattered around these collages. Other than that there are stars, explosions, magnets, potatos, skeletons and cows here. (28 pp. 8 1/2 x 11)

*****

Barbara Hand Clow, EYE OF THE CENTAUR ($9.95 + $1.50 p&h from Llewellyn Publications, PO Box 64383-095, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383): I am of two minds in reviewing this book, subtitled "A Visionary Guide into Past Lives". It is basically an account of the author's researches via regression therapy into her past lives, and I tried to give it a sympathetic reading as well as listening to my own prejudices about the way the world works. I was ultimately unsuccessful; all sympathy crumbled when Jesus Christ stepped out of the flying saucer and starts spouting pseudoscience. But I'll get to that.

The engineer in me would like you to know that this book is pure crap. These "memories" of past lives were evoked under hypnosis, and mostly refer back to ancient times -- Clow is, for example, a priest in ancient Egypt and a priestess of the oracle in Minoan times. (None of her incarnations ever shovel shit.) The author admits to having a grandfather who read to her extensively, at an early age, about ancient cultures. She also had a schizophrenic breakdown in her teens. It thus becomes easy to dismiss her "memories" as merely an active imagination. Worse yet, the farther back in time they go, the more outrageous these memories become; in the earliest times we have extraterrestrial gods on earth and objects made of pure lithium. Pure lithium, incidentally, is violently unstable in contact with air. The parts about the various "energies" these past incarnations wield make no sense at all from a physical standpoint, and I am afraid I burst out laughing at the revelation that nuclear power was going to destroy us all.

Now for the sympathetic part. For this, I think the best I can do is to quote Jean Houston, whose writings I respect, from the back cover blurb: "Barbara Clow offers a brilliant and ingenious record of her inner journey into the multiple landscapes of her creative unconsciousness. Using the metaphor of 'reincarnation', she reveals the fascinating phenomenology of the ways in which depth levels of consciousness create mythic and meaningful stories to bring one's life journey into deeper and more complex life scenarios..." As a series of parables or motherly advice, this book might do some people some good. After all, it's always nice to hear that there is a purpose to our life on earth, that people are basically good and wise, that we can fix everything if we try. But is it really necessary to wrap all this up in "reincarnation" and provide historical references to try and buttress outlandish claims?

*****

Philip K. Dick, THE MAN WHOSE TEETH WERE ALL EXACTLY ALIKE ($11.45 ppd. from Mark V. Ziesing, PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226): Although he made his reputation in science fiction, Phil Dick also wrote mainstream novels. This is one of them, written on commission for Harcourt, Brace in 1960, just before the phenomenally successful Hugo-winning THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE. Harcourt, Brace declined to publish it, and there the matter rested until after Dick's death. Now just about everything Dick ever wrote has been published, including the mainstream novels.

Long-time FF readers will know that I don't read a hell of a lot of mainstream novels (unless you count sleazy international intrigue as mainstream), but I think I can understand why this one didn't get published 25 years ago. Quite simply, there are absolutely no sympathetic characters here at all. Dick gives us a tour through a small town in Marin County (long before hot tubs), and all of the small town people are rotten to one another. Husbands and wives, neighbors and friends, everyone does things to hurt other people. It's not always intentional; it's not even sensible, but it happens.

The plot is essentially the story of two neighbors. Leo Runcible is the local realtor, saddled with an alcoholic wife, who makes an archaeological find on his land. Walt Dombrosio is an adman, whose marriage starts to fall apart when he loses his driver's license. The two start out friendly, but by the end of the book aren't talking. Meanwhile both families face financial ruin, the town water supply goes to hell, and the area becomes a source of amusement thanks to Runcible's find.

Still, this is an oddly gripping book. The unrelenting harshness leads the reader to hope that the happy ending is just around the corner right up to the last page, by which time the reader should know better. The people, while they don't always ring true, are fascinating, in the same way that the sight of one's own blood can be fascinating. And the real world looks like a much better place after this vacation in Dick's world. (223 pp. trade paperback)

*****

Yael Ruth Dragwyla, THE OTHER JESUS (PO Box 1548, Goleta, CA 93116-1548; SASE for catalog): For the passt couple of thousand years the story of Jesus of Nazareth has exercised a fascination over much of mankind. Many revisionist accounts of his life and death have been published, both by historians (Schoenfeld's PASSOVER PLOT) and by mystics (Graves' KING JESUS). This book is not quite part of that corpus of work; rather, it is the autobiography of Barrabas, the thief who Pilate released instead of Jesus.

Although a bit unpolished in places (an editor's hand might help), the writing here is overall quite moving. With only a few lines in the Bible and some mystic traditions to guide her, Yael has managed to reconstruct a plausible life for this highwayman in first-century Judea. Not being an expert in the history of the region, I can't say whether the details are historically true, but they ring true, and that's what counts here. Barrabas' early life is well told and explains quite well the roots of his crimes. When he does become leader of a band of rogues, we can still see the human being inside; although there is plenty of action and adventure in this part of the story, it does not obscure the inner man. Finally, after his capture and meeting with Pilate, Barabbas emerges as a whole man.

The Crucifixion is retold in the climactic scene of this book, and it is here that Yaels' mystical training shows clearly through. Like the rest, it is eminently plausible. As with the various Jesus books around, it's also unprovable. I think the wonder of that day nearly two millenia ago may be that it provided the largest inkblot test known to mankind. (71 pp. 8 1/2 x 11)

*****

Adam Eisenstat, COLLAGE OF MUTATIONS ($4.75 from Martyr Music, 716 S. Linden Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15208): From the same gentleman who brought you PORNOGRAPHIC NIGHTMARE [see the AUDIO column in this FF] comes this collection of short and confusing pieces. Many of the essays here were previously published in THE PITT NEWS at the University of Pittsburgh, and one can only wonder what college freshmen made of them (if anything).

Eisenstat is convinced that pop songs, rock videos and comic strips are the media of the future, and he has attempted to transfer imagery from these arenas to the printed page in order to discuss things like the Challenger disaster or sex or the presidential inauguration at a level which the average Joe can understand. He uses too many big words for this to really work, but some of these essays do capture the spirit of utter stupidity that one associates with contemporary American culture.

Besides the essays, there are a couple of music reviews here, lyrics from some of Adam's band's songs ("Marxist Picnic" is pretty funny) and a special visual collage supplement, featuring sex, violence and television. (40 pp. booklet & 12 pp. supplement).

*****

W. Joe Hoppe, HARMON PLACE ($1 & SASE from Lucky TIger Press, 1124 Second Ave. S #216, Minneapolis, MN 55403): People have been writing "slice of life" stories for years. This is more like a lump of maintaining. HARMON PLACE covers Joe's adventures from the time when he first arrives in Minneapolis until he moves out of the seedy apartment on Harmon Place for better digs. In between there are drunks, parties, violence, cars, women, jobhunting, slamdancing, drinking, moving and more. Whether

hanging around in the park and swilling beer or partying at the Club Degenerate Joe remains an observer of the scene, with enough presence of mind to record what is happening. Either that or he made all this shit up after he sobered up. Anyhow, while I hope I never live in an inner-city apartment, and I would be scared shitless to just dive in without a life preserver the way Joe did, I really enjoyed this series of vignettes. This is real life, and it ain't pretty, but it sure is interesting. (28 pp. pamphlet)

*****

Albert J. Manachino, THE BOX HUNTER & OTHERS ($5.95 from Potboiler Books, Panda Press Publications, Richards Rd., ROberts Creek, BC VON 2WO CANADA): If the Marx Brothers had written horror fiction...it wouldn't be much like Al Manachino's stories, but it would be closer than anything else. If forced to declare a genre for these pieces, the presence of ghosts and wizards and archangels and magic would make one stick with "horror" or perhaps "supernatural", but then what is one to make of the fact that the main characters are all members of Al's family? Of the major part played by a 60-pound Weimariner who is definitely not Cujo? Of the Hammerheaded Goblin Finch? Al views the world with a strange twist, and that twist makes these stories quite delightful.

Take "Order of Business", my favorite of this collection. One does not ordinarily expect horror to emanate from the corporate boardroom, at least not if one is not an accountant. Yet that is precisely what happens here, for this is the boardroom of the Nightmare Brick Company, an outfit that supplies materials to be used int he construction of haunted houses. And the horror? Well, it's not that the bricks are getting out of hand, or that homeowners have been turning to green slok, or anything one might expect after years of Twilight Zone episodes. No, it's that the company is not keeping up well with modern business practices, and the complaint letters are pouring in, and some of them are rather...outre.

Or consider the title story, "The Box Hunters". In this multi-viewpoint story (at least half a dozen members of Al's family and other characters narrate parts, which can be confusing, but is definitely fun) the Manachinos go on vacation in a very cheap property. It proves to be so cheap because half of it burned down years previously, and that half is occupied by a pair of wizards who collect boxes. Not snuff boxes or jewelry boxes, but coffins, are the objects of their search, and they spend their days paying loving attention to those the world has forgotten. One might think this would disturb any normal American family, and perhaps it would, but the Manachinos take it in stride. What causes problems is the presence of a third wizard who thinks part of the collection ought to be his...

This is a small-press effort that demonstrates precisely what the small press is for. Al Manachino is a voice who hasn't made it big in the major markets yet, but it would be a shame to deprive readers of his sense of humour and unlikely plots. Lari Davidson at Potboiler is to be commended for making his works available on a larger scale than before. With any luck, this is the first of a long string of his work. (246 pp. paperback)

*****

Dave Reissig, OTHER STUFF and NEW FUTURE ($1 each from Hitheryon House, PO Box 452, Syracuse, NY 13201): I think I've figured it out. Dave Reissig is writing, in installments, both an autobiography and (in a Dickian sense) an exegesis. Bits and pieces of both are stirred together in his books, along with window dressing and irrelevancies. Never mind that Dave would probably disagree with me, or that the Orphan Bill stories don't fit into this scheme; I'm the one writing this review, not him.

On the autobiographical side, there are bits and pieces of Dave's life scattered all through his works. His style is anecdotal, and connections between the anecdotes are sketchy or lacking altogether. But if you read a dozen or so of his books, the broad strokes -- the Air Force, the mental hospital, the Dragon Lady -- begin to show through. So far Dave's past is shadowy, starting around high school, but I expect him to remedy this if he ever remembers anything funny that happened to him earlier.

On the more mystical side, Dave is trying to explain the world. The crucial concepts (at least for this week) are individual sovereignty, opposite value causality, and jazz. That's the musical jazz, not the stuff from THE A-TEAM; Dave sees it as an archetype for many things, changing with his mood. In any case, various of his essays are devoted to these concepts; individual sovereignty is up for review in NEW FUTURE, while OTHER STUFF has a chapter on New Orleans and the jazz there.

In and amongst this stuff there are a tremendous number of one-liners and outrageous thoguhts, which one can enjoy even if the deeper pattern is not yet apparent. I think you can start anywhere in Dave's corpus; he has 14 of these booklets out so far. Try one. (24 pp. booklets)

*****

Jack Saunders, BLUE DARTER and LOST WRITINGS ($5 each from Mixed Breed, PO Box 42, Delray Beach, FL 33444): I was tempted to merely run the review I wrote of Jack's other writings over again [see FF18]. But that wouldn't be quite fair to him. Almost, but not quite. There are a few signs here that Jack actually can write. His reminiscences about his father, while not exactly the stuff of which bestsellers are made, are at least pleasant to read.

The problem is that he persists in burying the few bits of actual writing amongst a great deal of pissing and moaning about how his worth is not recognized by anyone. There are endless stories of how IBM is stupid and won't publish his work, the arts grants people are stupid and won't read it, his friends are stupid and tell him to reform it. One book full of this is self-indulgent. FOUR books full of this is masturbation. It doesn't show any respect for your readers to jack off in their faces. (85 pp. & 158 pp. paperback)

*****

David Starkey, THE SWAMP ($2.25 from Infinitum Publishing, 5737 Louetta Rd., Spring, TX 77379): Horror fiction in the classic mode. Three boys go into a deep, dank swamp for a lark and end up meeting rather more than they bargained for. The terror builds nicely through the obligatory Monster Discovery and Monster Chase scenes, and although the bursting of the balloon at the end doesn't quite scare one to death, it's a nice try. Starkey has a nice style and should try it on a somewhat more original subject. (32 pp. chapbook)

*****

Larry Stenzel, A VACATION FROM WORRY ($3 from Samuel Powell Publishing Company, 2201 I St., Sacramento, CA 95816): A short story set in some anonymous Midwestern town, large enough to have a billion dollar budget but small enough to be run by a gang of half-amateur aldermen. This story follows one of the aldermen around for a few days, tallying up his political successes and failures. Ultimately it seems to make the point that none of the politicking mattered anyhow, apart from the fact that they caused him to ignore a bigger problem in his private life. Stenzel ties up the loose ends well enough, and the characters seem realistic enough, but somehow, there's no real purpose for reading this. (29 pp. chapbook)

*****

Don & Maggie Thompson, THE GUIDE TO COMICS COLLECTING ($1 from Dept PR, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990): A quick introduction to this hobby, aimed at people with little or no knowledge of the comics. It discusses the origins of comic books, the ridiculous values of some early rare titles ($35,000?), the circulations of some current titles, and what is popular today. The mechanics of collecting and archiving comics get some mention, and there is also a section of bibliography. Includes an extensive glossary. (28 pp. booklet)

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>>>BOOK NEWS

*AMOK (PO Box 875112, Los Angeles, CA 90087) has a new book catalog out for $1. Since it includes books on torture, witchcraft, drugs, the Rockefellers and homemade weapons it will inevitably draw comparisons with the Loompanics catalog, which it is much smaller than. However, they have some items that Loompanics doesn't, so those with nutty libraries will probably want a copy.

*TOM DAVIS BOOKS (SASE to PO Box 1107, Aptos, CA 95001-1107) has a catalog with an incredible selection of "Political Power books". What this means is, for example, dozens of books on the Kennedy assassination, books on Marilyn Monroe's death, books on our various spy agencies, and so on. An extensive list, where the hardcore conspiracy

freak could spend thousands of dollars.

*EPIA SOCIETY 1986 SUMMER CATALOG ($2 from PO Box 6163, San Bernardino, CA 92412): "Your most comprehensive source of Constitutional research materials as reported in the periodicals of patriot research groups". These folks sell legal briefs and discussions of use to Constitutionalists -- you are advised to check the research before using any of them.

*EVERYDAY BOOKS & MICHAEL ZIESING BOOKS (PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226) have a new catalog out. Everyday Books is Alison Meyers, who you will now find writing poetry reviews for me -- I let her sell feminist and alternative books the rest of the time. Mike has a list of anarchist and alternative books too. Lots of good stuff here: alternative health, women's spirituality, vegan cooking, strange politics and stranger bedfellows. Mike & Alison are good people. They share a shop with Mark Ziesing [see below] and you should drop by when you're in Connecticut. It's a small state. 762 Main St. in Willimantic, 2nd floor.

*THE HIMALAYAN PUBLISHERS (RR1, Box 405, Honesdale, PA 18431) are the same folks who put out HIMALAYAN NEWS. Their book catalog features holistic health, hatna yoga, and Indian philosophy.

*ICHTHYS BOOKS (PO Box 1701, Glenwood, CO 81602) is out with two new books by Ratibor-Ray Jurjevich: "The Contemporary Faces of Satan" and "The War on Christ in America". $15.95 apiece.

*LOOMPANICS UNLIMITED (PO Box 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368) are publishing Bob Black's "The Abolition of Work and Other Essays", featuring a bunch of the Last International stuff and other texts as well as the title booklet, previously reviewed in FF. $8.95 ppd.

*THE MACKAY SOCIETY (PO Box 131, Ansonia Stn., New York, NY 10023) has a batch of anarchist books for sale, including the rare works of John Henry Mackay. Write for their catalog.

*NEW BEGINNINGS (PO Box 228, Waynesville, NC 28786) has a book catalog for the Christian right.

*THE NEWSLETTER #50 (from Mark Ziesing, PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226) is Mark's book catalog. Mark sells SF, including some lovely editions he has published himself [see review of MAN WHOSE TEETH... above] and most everything new and interesting that hits the market. He also has a lot of used books in stock, and he's slowly listing his backlist prices here as well. He's offering special discounts for this 50th issue so hurry up and get on his list. I buy books from him, and you should. It's a lot more human than dealing with Waldenbooks.

*PRINTED MATTER, INC. (7 Lispenard St., New York, NY 10013) says their catalog lists 2000+ titles of artists books, but it costs $4 so I haven't seen a copy.

*VARIETY IMPROVEMENT BOOKS (8 Sanford Ave., West Caldwell, NJ 07006) has a catalog of self-help, cooking and astrology books. Looks like an SASE will get you a copy.

*VIKING HOUSE (PO Box 160, Lake City, MN 55041) offers a batch of Odinist books for sale. Their latest title is "The Religion of Odin", by Irv Slauson.

*WATER ROW PRESS (PO Box 438, Sudbury, MA 01776) has published an anthology "Writers Outside the Margin" featuring the works of Bukowski, Burroughs and a bunch of other folks. Edited by Jeffrey H. Weinberg, $8.95 ppd.

*SAMUEL WEISER, INC. (PO Box 612, York Beach, ME 03910) has their new catalog out, with hundreds of occult and consciousness-raising books. They keep a lot of works by people like Crowley, Regardie and their ilk in print, and publish new stuff on crystal healing, astrology, qabalah and so on.

*WORKERS REVIEW PRESS (PO Box 40458, San Francisco, CA 94140) is out with John Lister's "Cuba: Radical Face of Stalinism". $7.25 ppd.

*XEXOXIAL EDITIONS (1341 Williamson, Madison, WI 53703) announces the publication of a 24 page book of works by Michael Voodoo, for $3 ppd.

Gary Hughes, the tax raised about $80,000 this year and he hopes to collect $115,000 next school year.

"We don't like to call it a tax," Hughes said. "Taxing is against the law. We call it a bond assessment fee." NEWSPEAK LIVES!

Both students and faculty have expressed concern that money used to construct the stadium would come

Distributors

EXTINCT PRODUCTIONS (2301 Prairie, Aurora, IL 60506-5235) has this to say about their operation: "Here's a catalog #2 from EXTINCT. It's got listings for 51 happening rags available from us by mail order. Any droog can get a copy by sending a stamp. [or 1 IRC in Canada/Mexico, 2 IRC's overseas]. May I take this time to say you put out an incredible zine? And if your printer didn't take so many dangerous drugs it would be easier to read.

"Now, if a zine wants to be in our catalog (and we'll take just about anything) and it costs money, they should send us a sample copy and an IRC (or 2 if they want the catalog too) and tell us their wholesale price. We'll speedily respond and say how many copies to send us and what we'd sell them for (on consignment). Our average markup is 15¢ - 30¢. If, however, a zine is for free, just send us many copies and we'll get them out all over the world."

*****

FLOATING WORLD (804 N. Cherokee, Hollywood, CA 90038) works a bit differently from most distributors. They'll take 5 copies of anything and sell them at your price plus postage, then send you the entire cover price -- but only when all 5 copies are sold, so this may be a bit of a risk if you're used to dealing cash up front. Their catalog is called MEDIA WAVE, and #47 is now out (available, I think, for an SASE). besides zines they sell an incredible selection of records and tapes from around the world.

*****

INTERNATIONAL MEGA-ZINES (PO Box 429, Bellmore, NY 11710) carries for the most part slick imported music magazines, along with imported records. I don't know how you can get your zine sold through them, but you can probably get a copy of their catalog for the asking.

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"GOVERNMENT CAN EASILY EXIST WITHOUT LAW, BUT LAW CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT GOVERNMENT". — Bertrand Russell, Nobel prize - winning philosopher (1872 — 1970).

The lawyers won't like that. Brainbeau's guess is that the present way of doing things could be continued if we all became percent takers as are the trial lawyers who get 1/3 of a settlement. Of equal importance, though, would be the adoption of an even age work force where lawyers along with the rest of us between 20 and 60 did our share of blue collar work at year 'round full pay thus ending free riding and unemployment. Send SASE to 50/50 (workers, others) money sharing plus even age work force or simply

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